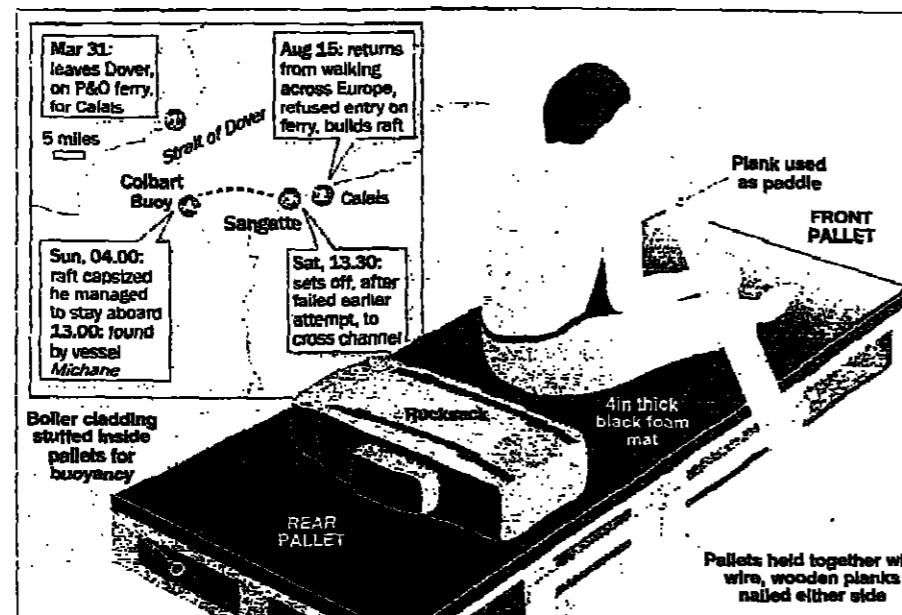






# Up the Channel without a paddle



I had no choice and no regrets, says failed job-hunter who tried to come home to Britain by makeshift raft. Stephen Farrell reports

THE tide of fortune turned a little yesterday for a penniless graduate who tried to cross the Channel on a makeshift raft after a failed job hunt across the length of Europe. Lawrence Tervit lost almost everything, including his paddle and four front teeth, in a collision with an oil tanker, but French coastguards were probably the first people in a long time to describe him as lucky.

Crazy, perhaps, but very lucky just to be alive.

Back in Britain last night via Le Shuttle, Mr Tervit looked back on a trip in which he had already had to walk most of the way from Poland before his Channel rescue, and said: "I don't regret it. If it hadn't been for that ship tipping me over, I would have made it."

The former Army corporal, 46, was totally unqualified for his attempted voyage at three weeks. He has never had a sailing lesson and he has been on a yacht just once. His mature degree is in social policy.

But he insisted that he had no choice in his desperation to return home after his four-

month search for work. Unable to afford to board a Calais to Dover ferry, or to persuade the ferry company to make a reverse-charges call to his home, the father-of-four from Stoneyburn, West Lothian, trudged a few miles further down the French coast to Sangatte.

There he fashioned a raft from materials lying by the side of the road, including two storage pallets, two planks, plastic cladding and a 4in sheet of black foam rubber.

Watched by an astonished crowd, he carried out a one-hour sea trial before taking advice on tides and pushing out on his maiden voyage at 2.30pm on Saturday, in the world's busiest shipping lane.

Asleep after 12 hours of constant paddling, he woke shortly after midnight on Sunday morning to the roar of an engine: "I heard thud, thud, thud, looked up and saw the bow of this enormous great ship heading straight for me.

"I tried to push away as fast as I could from the sharp end, but the bow wave flipped me over and I went under. I thought I wasn't going to make it. I could hear the noise of the paddle hitting the water."

Lawrence Tervit was looking across the water from Britain yesterday

wave actually pushed me away from the metal, but I thought I was going to go into the propellers. All I could think about was my kids. It was damn close."

Disoriented under water, he knocked out his front four teeth on a solid object and surfaced to see the ship receding and his raft still floating — upside down, but intact. He rescued a plastic bag containing his boots and passport, but could not reach the rucksack holding his food, driving licence and pictures of his children.

Hauling himself back onto the raft, he was carried backward and forward by the tides, in and out of the shipping lanes. Hampered by the lack of a paddle and the nails protruding from the bottom, he paddled with his hands and shouted for help.

He said: "I didn't have a compass or anything like that. It was pitch black and I was freezing and soaking wet. By the time it became light again, I was absolutely shattered and thinking I should never have done it."

"I thought I wasn't going to make it. I could hear the noise of the paddle hitting the water."

foghorns of ships near by and tried hailing them but it was foggy and they couldn't see me."

He was rescued 20 hours after his voyage had begun.

When two French sailors noticed him asleep on his upturned vessel in mid-Channel, 15 kilometers from the French shore. Exhausted, he had fallen asleep again around noon, to be woken by the sound of the French yacht Michane, which sighted him near the Colbart Buoy.

Taken aboard and given

coffee and biscuits, he was asked by the mystified two-man crew what he was doing: "I said I was trying to cross the Channel and they laughed at that."

"When the French rescue vessel came half an hour later, they laughed too. So did the nurses at the hospital. The man who had given me the advice about tidal movements had called me a crazy man but I didn't have any option. I had no money and the ferry company wouldn't let me make a reverse-charge call

home. What else could I do? Desperate times call for desperate measures."

After discharging himself from Calais Hospital yesterday, he stayed for one day before reversing his tracks and trudging back to Calais, arriving with just 43p in German currency. 5 Belgian francs and one French franc. After The Times brought him home to his brother's house in Portsmouth yesterday, he said: "It's put me off Europe. Not boats. Not well-constructed ones, anyway."

Yvan Guilon, assistant chairman of the Coastguard at Cap Gris Nez, said: "What he did was very, very dangerous. The English Channel at that point is the busiest route in the maritime world, with ships crossing from West to East and North to South. He could have been hit by a supertanker and no one would have even known he was there. When we found him he was in very poor condition, dehydrated and very weak. Not well-constructed ones, anyway."

## Kitten was 'cooked' in microwave

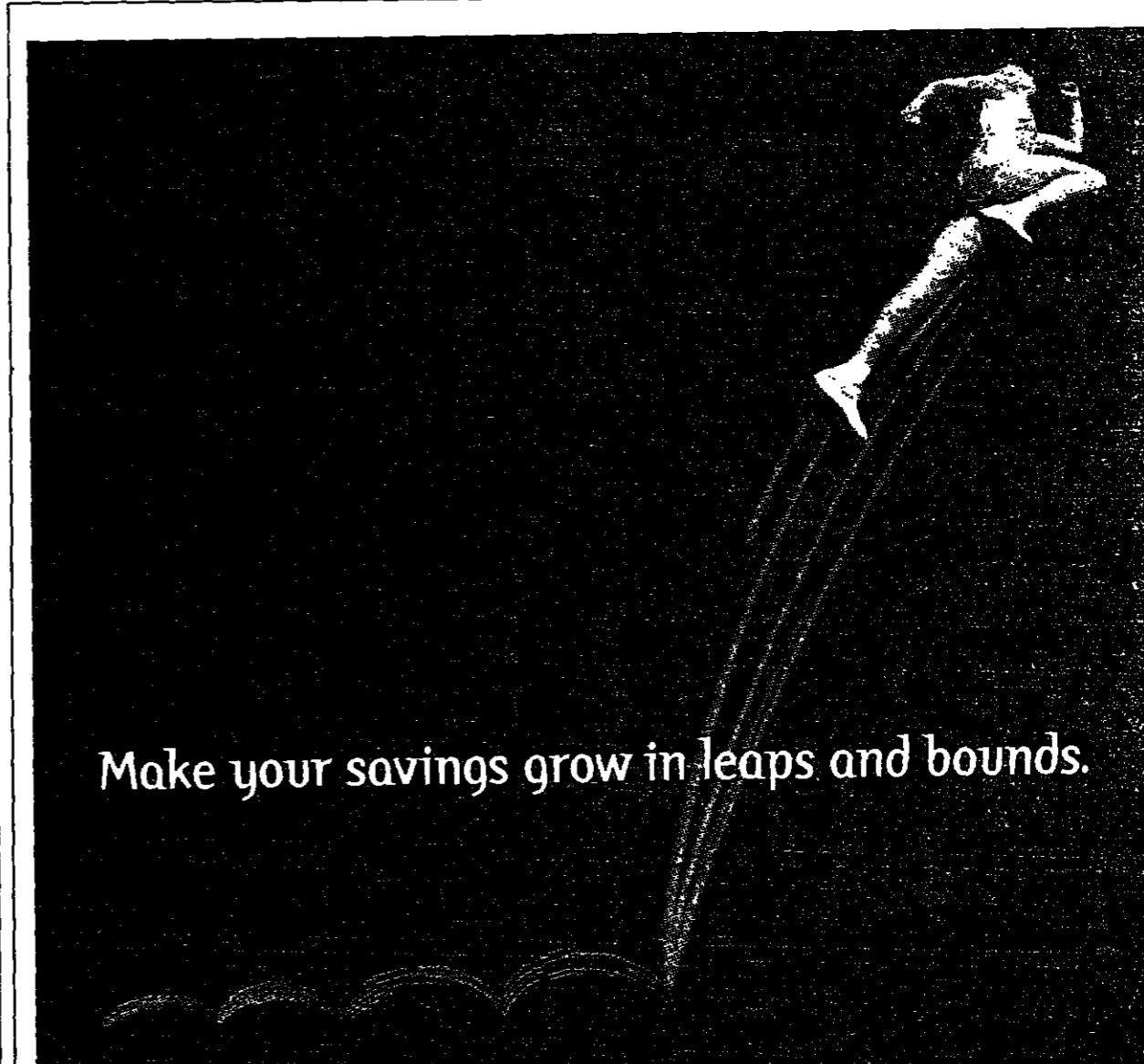
By RUSSELL JENKINS

A MAN put a kitten into a microwave oven and turned it on after he had unsuccessfully tried to chat up the animal's owner, a court was told.

Ian Graham, prosecuting for the RSPCA at Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne and Wear, yesterday, said: "The effect was death by torture. Unable to escape, the cat was trapped and its internal organs were gradually cooked."

Brendan Blennerhassett, 24, of Luton, Bedfordshire, was found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering and jailed for six months.

Mr Graham said he put the 12-week-old kitten, Jasper, in the microwave at a late-night party in Houghton-le-Spring last August. Jasper's owner, Vicki Allen, 20, said she discovered him after hearing him banging his head on the side of the oven in agony.



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## Banker survives case of the five-hour lunch

By ADRIAN LEE

A BANK chief who was allegedly so drunk that he slurred his words in front of a client and regularly took lunch breaks of several hours was unfairly dismissed from his £9,000-a-year job, an industrial tribunal ruled yesterday. Graham McMahon's behaviour when introduced to the important Muslim customer was said to have been so embarrassing that one colleague left the dealing room.

Mr McMahon, 45, was sacked as head of the treasury department at the Gulf International Bank in December 1996. But the London tribunal decided, after ten minutes' deliberation, that correct disciplinary procedures had not been followed.

Mr McMahon, who admitted asking a colleague to cover while he took a five-hour lunch, told the hearing that long breaks were the norm in

the banking industry. The day after the incident involving the customer, he admitted being away from his desk all afternoon, but said: "As much as I hate to say it, it was a regular occurrence, not just with myself but with other members of the dealing room staff. If you are out with clients it is a whole different ball game to just being out partying."

Mr McMahon, of Sevenoaks, Kent, now works for a bank in Geneva. Before his dismissal, he was earning about £89,000 a year, with bonuses that could be worth more than two months' salary.

He denied being drunk in front of the bank's best customer, Steven Moulder, who now holds Mr McMahon's former post, described the incident, saying: "Graham appeared very drunk. He made embarrassing comments, vastly overselling the

bank." The next day he left for lunch at 11.30, ordering a junior to say that he had not gone out until 1pm. Andrew Pocock, the branch manager, said: "He had shown by his behaviour he couldn't be trusted to be truthful. The senior management in Bahrain thought he should be dismissed to avoid exposing the bank to any unacceptable risks."

Richard Hemmings, the tribunal chairman, said the bank had not conducted a proper inquiry, so the tribunal did not have to decide if the allegations were true.

Afterwards Mr McMahon said: "I feel vindicated. If somebody was out with a client and it got a bit protracted you can't say to them, 'I have got to be back at work, it's three o'clock.' If the client wants to be entertained, he has to be entertained."

## Camilla 'laughs off troubles'

By EMMA WILKINS

CAMILLA Parker Bowles relies on her sense of humour to cope with the strain of her relationship with the Prince of Wales, according to a close friend.

Patti Palmer-Tomkinson, who has been friends with the pair for more than 20 years, said: "It's hard being compared with a goddess, but she always sees the funny side."

"Thirteen double chins as usual, and me with my head in my handbag," she says when they print another frightful picture of her. Mrs Palmer-Tomkinson told the New Yorker magazine, in an extremely rare move.

After a photograph appeared under the headline "Thighgrov", Mrs Parker Bowles fell about laughing, according to another friend.

When it was said that Diana, Princess of Wales, had nicknamed her "The Rottweiler", she began answering the telephone with



"Hello, Rottweiler here!" the article says.

The article, by the journalist Allison Pearson, says that while the Prince is concerned about Mrs Parker Bowles's safety and deeply in love, he has no immediate plans to formalise the relationship with marriage.

"He says 'There's no such thing as getting it right in my position — if I left her, they'd say it was cruel and they'd be right.' He longs to do more for her and give her something of what he

has." Mrs Parker Bowles does not want to trouble the Prince with her run-ins with photographers. Mrs Palmer-Tomkinson said:

"Camilla rings me from the car when the photographers are chasing her and she tells us all the dreadful things that have happened, but she never tells the Prince of Wales."

"Camilla says, 'Please don't let him know about this, he'll be so upset and worried.' And I say I can't bear his not knowing and she says 'Please don't.' It's completely unselfish — maybe the way one loves a child."

The suggestion that Mrs Parker Bowles might one day become Queen was met with "You must be joking" according to a friend, Mrs Palmer-Tomkinson said: "She's a very private person — I can't see her cutting ribbons. I've never heard them mention marriage. While they've got each other in private it's their romance, it belongs to them."

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# Landlord and gasman blamed for student's death are fined

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

A LANDLORD and gas fitter blamed for the death of an English literature student at Durham University escaped with fines yesterday, although a judge said he would have sent them to prison if he had the power.

Anne Brennan, 19, died two years ago in her digs in the city after breathing in carbon monoxide fumes leaking from a faulty boiler.

Judge Denis Orde previously described the house as a "veritable death trap" for the eight student occupants and a coroner recorded a verdict of unlawful killing. However, the two men could only be fined under the charges brought against them by the Health and Safety Executive.

Graham Williams, 56, of Durham, was fined £10,000 after admitting failing to ensure the boiler was properly maintained and failing to ensure the appliance was checked by an approved engineer.

Edgar Maddison, the gas engineer, also of Durham, admitted a charge of failing to provide proper ventilation. He was fined £4,000. Both men were ordered to pay £2,000 in costs.

Judge Orde, passing sentence at Newcastle Crown Court, expressed his concern for the safety of students across the country and suggested that universities recommend only landlords who can prove the safety of their heating installations.

He told the two men: "If I had the power to send you to prison today that is the course I would take."

John Evans, for the prosecution, said that Ms Brennan had lain undiscovered in a ground-floor bedroom while a friend was taken to hospital after being overcome in the former bed-and-breakfast guesthouse. She died in her



Anne Brennan: CO gas seeped through floor

bed after the fumes seeped through a crack in the floorboards in her room.

Other student residents told how they suffered nausea, dizziness and flu-like symptoms after they moved into the house in September 1995.

Last year an inquest in Durham was told how the boiler had twice been condemned and closed down by technicians, only to be discovered up and running later.

Health and Safety officials said that Williams, who bought the property in 1989, had ignored two prohibition notices and had ignored other advice on ventilation in the property where Anne died in October 1995.

In sentencing, Judge Orde told the men that the students in that house were paying rent to live in a veritable death trap, a "timebomb waiting to explode".

He told Maddison that his hardwork was a recipe for disaster, but added that the landlord should take the lion's share of the blame. He told Williams: "Had you ensured

that boiler was serviced on an annual basis that girl would not have lost her life. I can only assume you did not take this course because of penny pinching. If that is so it has cost this young girl her life."

Outside the court the dead girl's parents, Hugh Brennan, 60, and his wife Margaret, 59, spoke of their anger and frustration at a judicial system that allowed the men to escape charges for manslaughter which may have attracted a jail sentence.

Mr Brennan, a retired teacher, said: "Those two men were responsible for Anne's death and they should have been charged accordingly. We wanted them both charged with manslaughter but the Crown Prosecution Service decided not to press charges against them.

"It has been up to the Health and Safety Executive to get them to court at all and they are escaping with a fine. How can they be fined for causing the death of a girl with her life in front of her?"

Mrs Brennan, said: "Anne was a lovely, bubbly, lively girl. She loved life and had a great gift for mixing with people. Everyone who met her felt her genuine warmth and affection. She came to stay with us on the Tuesday before she died and her last words to me were: 'I love you m'am, take care of yourself.'

The Health and Safety Commission launched a television advertising campaign last October to highlight the problem of faulty gas installations. The commission believes that each year 30 people die from gas-related carbon monoxide poisoning.

New regulations place the legal onus on landlords to give copies of records confirming that annual safety checks of gas appliances and flues in rented accommodation are carried out.



The condemned bridge that used to connect Eel Pie Islanders to the north bank of the Thames at Twickenham, southwest London

## A right old mash at Eel Pie Island

1120 stranded people are dependent on a ferryman with a 14ft punt, writes Arthur Leathley

MORE than 100 residents perched on an island in the middle of the Thames will be cut off today when their only bridge is closed.

Citizens of Eel Pie Island will be forced to rely on a ferryman for the short trip to the mainland after a protracted dispute with British Gas.

The tiny island at Twickenham, south-west London, which featured in Dickens' *Nicholas Nickleby*, has relied for 40 years on the slender footbridge to link its 120 inhabitants with the outside world.

However, when workmen inadvertently drilled holes through the bridge reinforcing rods 10 years ago, the structure became increasingly shaky.

One of the island's most celebrated residents is Trevor Baylis, inventor of the clockwork radio that has revolutionised life across Africa, and he has become one of the leading voices in a vociferous campaign against the British Gas delays.

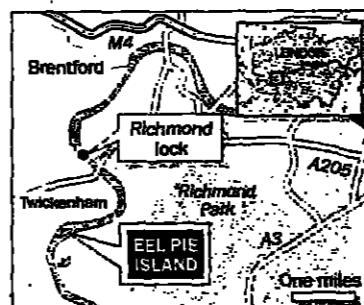
"There's no question that they have made our bridge unsound. If I drilled holes in the British Gas

service said: "There is no sense in this. It is going to cost a fortune to keep a service going for three or four months while a new temporary bridge is built."

One resident who will be more familiar with ferry journeys is 88-year-old Gladys Heath, who used to take the ferry before the bridge was built in 1956. "But obviously I was a lot younger then and I could scamper up the steps."

"Now it is going to be very difficult and we are all going to have to pull together and help each other with shopping and other everyday chores."

A spokesman for Transco, the gas pipeline operator which has taken over responsibility for the issue since the demerger of British Gas, said: "We have offered to pay £206,000 towards the repair costs which is the vast majority of the cost. We are still in discussion with residents over payment for the ferry."



chairman's Rolls Royce, he'd be right to sue me. All we are doing is the same."

The residents' association estimate that there are 1,000 pedestrian journeys a day over the bridge, which will create something of a headache for the ferryman who can carry only six people on a 14ft punt.

Ted Leppard, whose boat servicing company on the island, Eel Pie Island Slipways, will run the on-call ferry

## High tides put South Coast homes on full flood alert

By NICK NUTTALL

THOUSANDS of homes in the South and South-East have been issued with flood alerts. The Environment Agency fears that a combination of the movements of the Sun and Moon and the weather could trigger exceptionally high tides around parts of the British coast.

The agency is writing to more than 140,000 owners of vulnerable properties in Kent, Sussex, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to advise them on how they can get up-to-the-minute information via services such as Teletext.

Potentially high tides could hit the region from today through to Friday. But homeowners are also being told to brace themselves from September 17 to September 20, when the agency predicts the tides will be among the fourth largest for 40 years.

Gary Lane, regional water manager for the agency, said yesterday: "While much depends on the weather conditions at the time, the predicted high tides could be a testing time for us all."

The agency currently



An impression of the ecologically sensitive foreshore scheme for the Greenwich millennium site

spends £210 million, or 40 per cent of its budget, on flood and sea defences. It is much more than in the days of the great flood of 1953 but areas remain vulnerable to flooding when certain factors come together.

David Wilkes, the flood defence manager who runs the Thames barrier, said yesterday that wind speeds and weather conditions in the Atlantic could funnel water up around the top of Scotland and down through the North Sea towards the Straits of Dover.

"You get this huge volume of water pouring into the

North Sea and as the tide comes in and out you can get this water welling up against itself." The effect could add four metres to water levels.

The South-East is also tilting into the sea by about a millimetre a year, enhancing the impact of the weather and the gravitational pull of the Moon and Sun.

The threats to the South Coast came as the Environment Agency, English Partnerships and John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, launched an ecologically friendly flood defence system

for the Millennium site at Greenwich. It is hoped the scheme will become a blueprint for river flood defences.

For well over a century walls along the Thames have been sheet walls of concrete or metal piles, described by Mr Prescott yesterday as an "environmental mess".

Under the new £8 million scheme, about 2,400 metres of bank around the west, east and tip of the Greenwich peninsula, is being re-engineered to help wildlife.

The existing flood defences would be cut down on the tip of the peninsula and the wall taken back 10 metres back to make a walkway and cycle route. The foreshore would then be restored.

Michelle Duke, 21, of Tickhill, near Doncaster, was forced to swim for her life when her car was suddenly submerged under railwails as floods struck South Yorkshire. She drove her car into what she believed was a puddle under a railway bridge near Malby only to discover it was 5ft deep.

Weather, page 22

## Fruit prices rise after crop fails

Bad weather has led to a shortage of peaches, reports Michael Hornsby

A DISASTROUS season for Mediterranean fruit growers, hit first by frost and then by gales, has reduced the crop by up to 60 per cent in places and will increase prices across Europe.

Sainsbury's said nectarines were 29p each, up from 25p last year, while the price of peaches, at 29p each, had not changed. "We are having to pay more for these fruits this year," a spokeswoman said, "but we are trying to hold the price down."

"We have been having problems and have had to source our peaches and nectarines from elsewhere to make up for the Italian shortfall," a Safeway spokeswoman said. "This has put prices up."

Nectarines are selling for

gone up by 30 per cent, reflecting the higher prices we are having to pay farmers."

Tony Vince, a journalist with *Food News*, said: "The shortage will probably be felt mainly in markets such as Germany, which is a heavy

importer and currently has a weak currency."

Last year the Italian pear crop amounted to 1.1 million tonnes, out of a European Union total of 2.6m. This year the EU pear harvest is not expected to exceed 2m tonnes.

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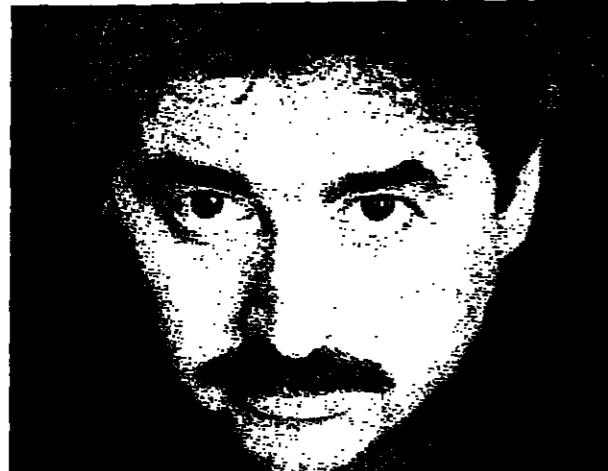
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# Mental athletes tone their bodies to keep their minds in shape



**Dominic O'Brien, the world memory champion**  
Fitness programme, pasta diet and help from Diana and Dodi allow memory champion to exercise grey cells, reports Mark Henderson

BRAINBOXES no longer have sand kicked in their faces. Competitors at the Mind Sports Olympiad employ rigorous physical training techniques as they strive to beat their cerebral rivals.

Memory champions and chess and draughts players said yesterday that they ran, swam and cycled hundreds of miles each year to improve their aerobic fitness as well as harnessing science to increase their mental agility.

The Olympiad, which started at the Royal Festival in London yesterday, features 36 mind sports. It has a total prize fund of £100,000.

Dominic O'Brien, 40, the world memory champion from Barley, Hertfordshire, who can memorise a pack of cards in 32.8 seconds, followed a two-month training programme for his event, which begins on Thursday. He runs four miles a day, drinks no alcohol for six weeks before a tournament and eats lots of pasta and other carbohydrates to keep his blood sugar high at competition time.

He also takes regular doses

of ginkgo biloba, a Chinese herb said to improve circulation by dilating the blood vessels, practises the trancelike state in which he performs his astonishing mnemonic feats, and has regular brain scans to check that each part of his brain is performing to its potential.

"It's crucial to maintain your body in peak condition and exercise the mind," he said. "I have a mnemonic system which needs practice, and I also work at lowering my brain activity to the optimum concentration level."

He uses a system of associating people and places with numbers and cards. The number ten is Dudley Moore, because he starred in the film *Ten*. 99 is Mr Whippy, the queen of hearts is Diana, Princess of Wales — and the knave of diamonds is now Dodi Fayed.

In competition, Mr O'Brien lowers his brain activity rate to between five and seven hertz, the equivalent of most people when dreaming. This allows a higher degree of concentration which enables him to remember sequences



William Faulks, 5, the youngest competitor, shaking hands with Sir Brian Tobey, one of the Olympiad organisers, before a warm-up game yesterday

of up to 1,400 cards or numbers. Normal brain activity is 12 to 14 hertz.

Ron King, 40, from Barbados, who has held the world draughts title for ten years, is a teetotaller who follows a meat-free diet and a fitness programme. "I run marathons and play five-set tennis matches for stamina, and dive to improve concentration," he said. "Diving is about poise and balance and requires the same sort of mental rigour as competition draughts."

Cheess players also use fitness training and psychology.

Garry Kasparov employs the same sports psychologist as the pole vaulter Sergey Bubka. Kasparov famously ground down Anatoly Karpov, his world title opponent in 1984-85, by tiring him out with a string of draws before pouncing on a drained opponent who had lost 30h.

Matthew Sadler, 23, the British No 2 who is ranked 16 in the world, said his game took off after he started to take psychological and mental training seriously. "I began to follow the grandmaster Julian Hodgson, who was never a

great technical player but who thought about his opponents' weaknesses," he said. "I got fitter and trained my mind to play the man as well as the game."

He eats bananas to keep his blood sugar high during six-hour games, and drinks isotonic drinks in hot conditions. Before tournament in Armenia, he learnt the language and ate nothing but Armenian food to acclimatise.

Tony Buzan, one of the organisers of the Olympiad, who has written many books on mental training, said that

competition mind sports required the same intensity as many physical sports. "Mind athletes are athletes, every bit as much as runners," he said.

There are two key aspects, aerobic and mental fitness. The brain uses 40 per cent of the body's oxygen, and a strong body promotes brain activity. Then you can train your mind, as all the great thinkers, like Leonardo de Vinci and Einstein, did."

Imagination, he added, could do for a mind what weight training could do for a body. "Watch a vase of flow-

ers, concentrate on every detail, then close your eyes and imagine it," he advised. "You can keep repeating it until you find it hard to tell the difference between the real image and the imagined one. Mind-training techniques like that can open up a new sphere of mental fitness."

The Mind Sports Olympiad, which includes *The Times* Crossword Championship, is sponsored by the insurance group Skandia and supported by *The Times*.

Chess and Bridge, page 38

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Dog judge jailed for starving his terrier

A dog show judge was jailed for three months and banned from keeping animals for life yesterday for letting his border terrier, Oscar, starve to death in his garage. Raymond Gough, 40, from Braintree, Essex, a judge with the South West Essex Canine Association, had been convicted after pleading guilty at an earlier hearing. His two other border terriers have been found new homes.

David Whippes, for the RSPCA, told Braintree Magistrates' Court that Mr Gough's former wife broke into the garage last November and found Oscar lying in a covered cage. The dog, half its normal weight, was lying next to three empty food bowls and had been dead for some days.

### Cashier jailed

Susan Woodard, 40, who had worked for 23 years as a cashier at Barclays Bank, Pontypool, Torfaen, transferred almost £29,000 over two years from the account of a retired engineer to her own before he noticed. Newport Crown Court jailed Woodard, a mother of three, for 15 months. She told police she had stolen the money to pay off family debts.

### Identity cards

Four out of five young people support the introduction of compulsory identity cards for teenagers, according to an NOP survey. Three-quarters of adults questioned believed ID cards should be issued to everyone in Britain. Support for the cards was highest among the over-55s, at 23 per cent. Overall, four out of five said ID cards would help to prevent under-age drinking.

### Boxer bereaved

The boxer Herbie Hide was said to be devastated after his ten-year-old brother Alan died from leukaemia. Hide, said his brother, who was diagnosed with the condition four years ago, was a motivating factor behind his career when he regained the WBO heavyweight title in June. Hide is to appear before Norwich magistrates next month accused of assault.

### Beggar guilty

A Covent Garden street beggar who killed an Australian backpacker after he refused to give him money was jailed for three years. An Old Bailey jury found Peter McCaffery, 23, who now lives near Renfrew in Scotland, guilty of the manslaughter of Robert Nankernis, 24, of Melbourne, who died in hospital 15 days after a single punch to the face in January this year.

### £630,000 D-type

A 1956 D-type Jaguar found in a barn in Connecticut and unused for 16 years was sold for £630,124 at a Christie's car auction at Pebble Beach, Northern California. It cost £3,878 when new. D-types won the Le Mans 24-hour race for three consecutive years between 1955-57. Chassis number 301D 557, never raced, was sold as "one of the best-preserved in the world".

### CORRECTIONS

In 1996-97 1.2 million people visited Windsor Castle, not half a million, as wrongly printed in the letter from Dickie Arbiter (August 15). Mr Ralph Blumenthal's letter (August 16) should have referred to dogmatic thinkers who use the smuttiest ingenuity in their arguments (not integrity), as printed.

## Nature may not know best in heated debate

THE old concept that "nature knows best", and that parents and doctors should not always try to bring down a child's fever, has been revived by Ivan Blumenthal, a consultant paediatrician in Oldham, Lancashire, writing in the journal of the Royal Society of Medicine.

The rationale for not reducing a high temperature is that it is the body's response to infection: the fever provides an environment that is inhospitable to the invading organisms, and so checks their growth.

However, the argument that the body's response to an infection is always to the advantage of the patient is hard to sustain. The terrible haemorrhages induced by the toxin of the meningococcal bacterium can kill within hours, or leave a child crippled. Likewise, the pneumonia that is a feature of some serious cases of measles can result in permanent lung damage.

Up to 4 per cent of children are liable to suffer febrile convulsions if their temperature rises above 38.5C (101.3F). They may occur as a brief single incident, the so-called

febrile seizure, can be repeated throughout the day, or any one attack may be prolonged. If the child suffers more than one incident in 24 hours, or any individual attack lasts for more than 15 minutes, the seizure is classified as a complicated febrile infantile convolution, which has more serious implications.

The overwhelming majority of infantile febrile convulsions cause no lasting damage, but in a small proportion the child may subsequently have febrile convulsions each time he or she has a high temperature or will develop epilepsy in later life. It is not certain whether the fever merely uncovers a pre-existing tendency to epilepsy.

However, if my grandchild was running a high temperature I would rather not take the chance, when the correct single incident, the so-called

Letters, page 17

## MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

AN anarchist pop group made up of squatters and punk rockers has committed the ultimate sell-out by reaching number two in the UK charts. To their bemusement the members of Chumbawamba, which opposes the commercialisation of rock music and satirised Live Aid with an album entitled *Pictures of Starving Children Sell Records*, have become over-night stars.

The eight band members live in a squat in Leeds and have never had a hit record in their 13-year history. But they have now signed a record deal with EMI in Germany after years with independent record labels, and an album is imminent.

Their success came after the Radio 1 disc jockey Simon Mayo made their single, *Tubthumping*, his record of the week. The song extols the virtues of drinking whisky, cider and lager and features swearing in its chorus.

It is only recently that the group has been campaigning against New Labour and also subverted the Leah Betts "Sorted" anti-drug poster with their own postcards, captioned "Distorted". Yesterday the band's members insisted they were still anarchists. Singer Alice Nutter said: "We still carry the idea we had 12 years ago that no-one should have to go to work 40 hours a week and do a crap job."

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# Study counsels caution on a cure-all for life's ills

**COUNSELLING**, the 1990s remedy for life's problems, is ineffective when used on its own to help those at risk of depression or other mental illness.

The conclusion, reached by the NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination at the University of York, will come as unwelcome news to the growing army of counsellors, now believed to run into tens of thousands.

No disaster is complete until those involved have been offered counselling, a technique which involves sharing worries by talking them through. The bereaved, the unemployed, the divorced and children from disadvantaged

backgrounds are all considered to be at high risk of suffering long-term damage unless it can be averted by counselling.

But the study by the York centre concludes that "counselling by itself has not been shown to produce sustained benefit in a variety of groups at risk". Among women who had a miscarriage, for example, none of the three trials into the effectiveness of counselling showed a sustained effect.

The same was true of bereavement counselling. The report says

it showed no effect on "quality of life satisfaction or frustration levels in people close to deceased cancer patients", and no difference in depression among spouses of people who had committed suicide.

There has been a rapid growth in the employment of counsellors, particularly within primary care," the report concludes. "However, there is little evidence that generic counselling provided by itself is particularly effective. More attention needs to be given to the content and effectiveness of specific forms of counselling and the skills of counsellors before this approach is extended too widely."

The York centre was set up with government money to provide independent advice on different treatments. It does so by reviewing the literature, not by conducting its own research. In this case, it has reviewed all the available studies of the effectiveness of various forms of counselling in helping people with mental health problems.

Mary Turner-Boutle, editor of the bulletin in which the findings

appeared, said yesterday: "There is a great shortage of research evidence in this field, but what there is fails to show that counselling in general is effective. But we did find that specific sorts of counselling, in particular cognitive behavioural therapy, can have good results."

A spokesman for the British Association for Counselling said that she thought the conclusions were rather sweeping: "We have never claimed that counselling by itself is a panacea for everybody," she said. "But we find that GPs

are extremely satisfied by the effectiveness of counselling used in conjunction with other treatments, such as drugs for example." The association's directory of counsellors in private practice lists 2,500 names, up from 800 in 1988.

About 60 per cent of GPs surgeries now employ counsellors, with two thirds of their salaries paid by the NHS. Nobody knows how many counsellors there are, but membership of the association is more than 15,000. Many counsellors have set

themselves up with little or no qualifications, and competence varies widely.

"This is a terribly difficult area in which to conduct research," the association spokesman said. "Often only the patients and the counsellor know what has gone on, and patients are usually reluctant to talk about it. Are they happier? Can they cope better?"

Ms Turner-Boutle says: "This is such a burgeoning field, with such a proliferation of counsellors, that it is important to try to measure how successful it is. We are not saying that counselling is useless, but that there is no evidence to demonstrate that it is effective."

IAN HODGSON

# Miners who put paid to Scargill say pit closure is a betrayal

Union feud will hit job prospects, writes Peter Foster

MINERS who were enticed to one of the country's biggest privatised pits after the 1984-85 strike by the promise of long-term work were feeling bitter and cheated yesterday when it was announced that the mine would close.

Asfordby A Mine, in Leicestershire, which employs nearly 500 miners, ceased production after its owner, RJB Mining, declared it unsafe and uneconomic. One despondent worker said yesterday: "I swallowed the Asfordby dream pill. Now I have been left with nothing."

Miners spent their last shift doing routine maintenance work before clocking off and returning home to discuss their futures with wives and families. Martin Hine, 33, who made tunnels in the rock, said he was typical of the workforce: "I came here and bought a large house on the promise of a job for life. I have a mortgage and two children to support."

"I shall have to get work at another pit if I can. The only jobs around here are at a cheese factory, and I would have to start at the bottom on half the money. I am too old for that."

The Asfordby miners are known in the industry as "gypsies", because of the number of times they have moved to find work. RJB Mining promised yesterday that a

large proportion would be offered work in other pits, but said there would be some compulsory redundancies.

Those who accept redundancy will receive approximately £900 for each year they have worked in the coal industry. One Asfordby worker said he would take the offer because he feared being made redundant again later. "If I move to another pit now I could find myself on state redundancy payments in three or four years' time."

Neil Greatorex, president of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers, which represents the majority of Asfordby workers, said he was sure that the closure would be followed

**I bought a large house on the promise of a job for life. I have a mortgage and two children to support**

by others. This was denied by Bill Rowell, managing director of deep mines at RJB, who said: "We have no plans to shut other pits."

The job prospects of the Asfordby workers will not be

helped by the still-bitter feud between the UDM and the National Union of Mineworkers, dating from the 1984-85 strike. UDM members said they would not be able to accept work in Yorkshire pits such as Maltby. "We can't go up there because we'd get kicked in," said one, who asked not to be named. "Underground you have to trust your mates to survive. Working with NUM lads you couldn't do that."

Asfordby was bought by RJB as part of an £815 million package when British Coal was privatised in 1984. The pit has lost £35 million in the past two years.

The UDM accused the company of a deliberate ploy to close the mine and insisted that it was still viable. Some commentators said it was a tactical move to put pressure on the Government to help the coal industry as it faces the renegotiation of its five-year supply contracts with the power generating companies next spring. It fears that competition from natural gas will lead to smaller contracts.

However, a senior source at RJB said: "The closure was strictly about economic viability and safety. We've had the best engineers and technicians working at Asfordby, but it just isn't safe or economic to keep extracting the coal. If we can't do it, nobody can."



The last day for miners at Asfordby A pit. Many of the 500 workers will be offered work at other mines, but some will be made redundant

this right, the coal industry will be at death's door."

RJB said that the technical problems at the pit had been caused by beds of hard rock above the coal seam putting

pressure on the workforce and causing cave-ins and flooding.

After attempting to mine a 200-metre face, the company switched to smaller, 60-metre sections 18 months ago in an

effort to overcome the difficulties. This was successful, but when they attempted to mine a 120-metre section, flooding and cave-ins recurred. Earlier this month the company was

forced to abandon the section, leaving more than £5 million of equipment at the face.

Contract fight, page 23  
Tarnished crown, page 27

## Detectives target a plague of fraudsters

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

ELEVEN police forces in Scotland and northern England yesterday launched their biggest crackdown on fraudsters and sneak thieves who prey on the elderly.

Bogus callers swindle an estimated £1 million a year from unsuspecting householders. All eight Scottish police forces, together with Cumbria Constabulary, Northumbria Police and British Transport Police, have teamed up for Operation Hamelin.

The initiative, which will use the theme of the Pied Piper and the slogan "if you smell a rat... kill it out", is being led by Strathclyde Police, Scotland's largest force. Around 5,000 crimes by confidence tricksters and bogus callers take place in Scotland each year, but police believe up to 50 per cent of crimes go unreported.

Most victims are over 70, while the fraudsters can be as young as 16. Crimes can vary from a few pence taken by a bogus charity collector to thousands of pounds charged by door-to-door "tradesmen".

Operation Hamelin has been divided into three phases. For the first phase, the 11 forces spent July collating information on criminal movements across force boundaries. The shared information contributed to the arrest of 48 suspected criminals during the "enforcement" phase, earlier this month. The third phase, launched yesterday, is intended to raise public awareness with leaflets and posters.

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Gordon Mitchell and his son Alex, who ended their holiday early after the attack

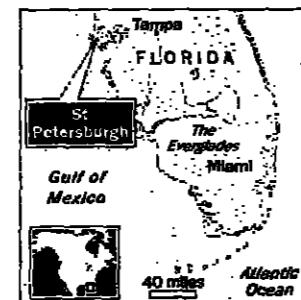
## Father and son held by gunmen in Florida hotel room

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

A BOY aged nine and his father have been attacked and tied up in their hotel room in Florida by two armed robbers. Gordon Mitchell and his son Alex had just left their room in the Howard Johnson Hotel on St Pete's Beach, St Petersburg, when they were confronted by the two men. "One stopped Alex from running ahead and the other pulled out an automatic pistol and said 'Get back in your room,'" said Mr Mitchell, 40, a sales director from Newcastle upon Tyne.

"I was so nervous it took five attempts to open the door. Then one of the men took the key, opened it and pushed us inside. He made us lie face down on the floor and tied our wrists behind us. They demanded jewellery and money and took my watch and about \$250 from my wife and daughter's holiday money. The gunmen got frustrated that there wasn't anything else and he gave the weapon to his friend and said 'Shoot anyone who comes in the door'."

Mr Mitchell's wife Lynne,



Mitchell, however, said that the hotel wanted to "play the whole thing down" and said they should have warned other guests.

More than 1.3 million Britons will visit Florida this year, and 442,000 of them will go to St Petersburg. This is the first reported case of an attack on British tourists in the town.

□ A couple who paid more than £2,000 for a package holiday for themselves and two children in Majorca were given the keys to a converted lock-up garage rather than the comfortable apartment they

expected.

Complaints at the site failed to find a solution and Mary Brisley, 43, Andrew Oakley, 35, and two girls aged 11 spent four days in the windowless garage instead of what the brochure had described as "an attractive apartment set in a secluded location with high standards of comfort and friendly service".

They are claiming compensation from the tour operator Sunset and the travel agents Lunn Poly.

The Mitchells arranged to be flown home a week earlier than planned. They are claiming the entire cost of their holiday from Unijet, the tour operator.

Rex Huskey, the hotel's manager, said: "We could not find them another room in the hotel on the night that incident happened but switched them to another property along the street. The next day we gave them one of our best executive rooms but they claimed we were trying to keep them away from other guests."

Mr Mitchell's wife Lynne,

## THE WHITEHALL REVOLUTION

### Social Security

# Harman sees work as best form of welfare

**Blair's team at Social Security is breaking with the past, writes Alexandra Frean**

THE litmus test of the radicalism of Tony Blair's Government will be how it tackles the welfare state and the growing £90 billion social security bill. Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, and Frank Field, her deputy, have been told to take on what is seen as the culture of welfare dependency in Britain. Previous Labour governments have sought to increase benefits. This Prime Minister says that he wants to cut benefit bills, by getting people into work, and use the savings on education.

Ms Harman has an internal party battle on her hands, with several Labour MPs angered by her decision to go ahead with the Tory Government's plan to cut benefits for lone parents by £1 a week. Even the Government's advisers, the Social Security Advisory Committee, said that it should at least be deferred.

The appointment as Minister of State for Welfare Reform of Mr Field, in the past dismissed by some as a maverick but respected by others as an original thinker, showed Mr Blair's determination to bring spending under control. For years, Mr Field preached the gospel of welfare reform from the back benches and as chairman of the Commons Select Committee on Social Security. Untrammeled by front-bench responsibilities, he advocated measures such as compulsory savings for a second pension, a new form of National Insurance and a remodelled income support system.

John Denham, a junior minister, is heading the pensions review, but Mr Field is bound to have a significant input.

Ms Harman's presentation skills are likely to be an important asset as she sets out

to get the provision of childcare incorporated into Labour's long-term economic and employment strategy. There are now one million lone mothers bringing up two million children dependent on benefit at a cost of £10 billion a year, she says, "and we have to do something about it".

Ms Harman's belief in the work ethic is also reflected in the announcement that the Government is to spend £200 million on the training of people on disability and sickness benefit to help them to find jobs. The official line is that this is a way of bringing back into the mainstream those marginalised by society. The implication of policies such as these, however, is that whatever benefit you are on, the department will seek some focus to be the 'hand up', not the 'hand out'.

Now that the Department for Education and Employment has begun to implement its 'welfare-to-work' new deal, Ms Harman is setting out her stall. She has already announced an initiative for getting lone parents back to work. More than 70 of a proposed total of 1,000 "personal advisers" have been installed in eight jobcentres to help single parents to find training and work. Critics argue that the scheme will only scratch the surface of the problem.

Ms Harman has long championed the cause of Britain's lone mothers. While in Opposition, she campaigned

for the provision of childcare incorporated into Labour's long-term economic and employment strategy. There are now one million lone mothers bringing up two million children dependent on benefit at a cost of £10 billion a year, she says, "and we have to do something about it".

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## Depart of Social Security

**HARRIET HARMAN:**  
Secretary of State for Social Security

Aged 47. The most telegenic member of the Cabinet. Her presentational skills and her utter loyalty to Labour's modernisation project have also ensured her place at the top table. But she has enemies within the party who doubt her intellectual skills and will still not forgive her for sending her son to a grammar school.

**FRANK FIELD:**  
Minister for Welfare Reform

As a backbencher, Frank Field, 55, Minister for Welfare Reform, was a virtual one-man policy unit, coming up with visionary ideas for reducing welfare dependency. Formerly chairman of Commons Select Committee on Social Security, he is concerned that welfare reforms do not harm the long-term ill or the elderly. Educated at Hull University.

**JOHN DENHAM:**  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary

The City was pleased with the appointment of John Denham, 44, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary responsible for pensions, as he had courted the big investment institutions whilst in opposition as a Labour spokesman on social security. Graduate of Southampton University, he previously worked for Friends of the Earth, British Youth Council and War on Want.

**KEITH BRADLEY:**  
Parliamentary Undersecretary

As a "hard left" Manchester City Councillor in the 80s, Keith Bradley, 47, Parliamentary Undersecretary for income-related benefits, poverty recovery of benefits and green issues, supported motions to send cash to striking miners. Educated at Aston University, Manchester Polytechnic and York University.

**BARONESS HOLLIS OF HEIGHAM:**  
Parliamentary Undersecretary of State in the Lords

Aged 56, rose from prominence as leader of Norwich Council. The daughter of a farm-worker she became a senior lecturer in modern history after graduating from Girton College, Cambridge and Nuffield College, Oxford. She led the onslaught on last year's Divorce Bill to ensure that divorcing women could take a slice of their ex-husbands' pensions.

**ANN BOWTELL:**  
Parliamentary Secretary

Aged 59, educated at Girton College, Cambridge. Ms Bowtell has spent most of her civil service career in the Department of Social Security, which replaced the National Assistance Board, which she joined as a graduate trainee in 1960.

**JOHN MCINTOSH:**  
Part of the Labour Party "Scot-mafia" aged 58, joined the party when he was 15 and previously worked as head of information at the National Institute for Social Work. Educated at Edinburgh University.

**LIZ KENDALL:**  
Aged 26. A Cambridge graduate, worked for the Institute for Public Policy Research before joining Harriet Harman's team in opposition. Tends to concentrate on women's issues especially lone mothers.

## The In-Tray

- Introducing a national childcare strategy. The Government has already earmarked £150 million of National Lottery money for the creation of a network of "out of school" clubs, to provide child care in the evenings and school holidays. A further £200 million has been allocated to training to help single mothers find jobs.
- The department has already taken action on service delivery with the publication last month of the Social Security Bill, which aims to cut red tape, reduce benefit and tax loopholes and introduce a highly sophisticated information technology system.
- Other ways of supplementing state provision could include the setting up of new institutions to offer benefits to individuals, based on the concept of "mutuality". Friendly societies or trade unions could offer individuals insurance to cover sickness, unemployment or long-term care.
- Ms Harman has ordered the Child Support Agency to attack its backlog of cases and to complete an extra 500,000 assessments by the end of the year.
- Labour's comprehensive pensions review, launched last month, aims to supplement state provision with private-sector funding and to encourage people to make their own provision for their old age. Plans for a new "stakeholder pension" are already the subject of extensive consultation with the City and with user groups.
- Clamping down on benefit fraud will be a high priority. The department is likely to toughen sanctions for benefit cheats. It has already backed a crack fraud-busting hit-squad in London, called LOFIT, launched last week to track down housing benefit fraud.
- Housing benefit, which currently costs £12 billion a year, is likely to be one of the first areas targeted by the department's comprehensive spending review. Under present rules it can act as a disincentive to many unemployed people getting jobs.
- The department is working jointly with the Treasury and the Inland Revenue to review the potential for integrating the tax and benefit systems into a single system and to introduce tax breaks which encourage unemployed and low-paid people to work.

## Survival of deer 'depends on hunt'

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY  
COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

DEER hunters mounted a new challenge in the High Court yesterday to the National Trust's ban on the use of its land for the sport, arguing that wild red deer could disappear outside Scotland if hunting were stopped.

Counsel for members of the Devon and Somerset Staghounds, the Quantock Staghounds and tenant farmers told Mr Justice Robert Walker that when there had been no hunting in the area the red deer herd, now about 2,500 strong, had dwindled to 60 animals because of poaching and the farmers' right to shoot deer feeding on their crops.

The only reason landowners were prepared to tolerate the deer and the damage they did, he said, was because the animals provided quarry for a sport that was estimated to bring £4 million a year into the local economy.

The National Trust ban has caused very considerable anger and concern in the West Country, not only among landowners and farmers on [trust] land but concern among scientists and animal conservationists who fear it will lead to an end to the protection of the red deer herds. They believe the decision to ban hunting was ill-considered and reached in unseemly haste."

The deer hunters want the judge to grant an order suspending the trust ban, imposed in April, until the outcome of a judicial review of its legality. The hearing continues.

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|-------------------------|---------|-------|
| Midland Bank Account    | 0.4%    | 0.32% |
| Meridian                |         |       |
| Up to £2,000            | 0.4%    | 0.32% |
| £2,000+                 | 1.9%    | 1.1%  |
| £10,000+                | 3.2%    | 2.5%  |
| £50,000+                | 3.4%    | 2.7%  |
| Home Management Account | 0.40%   | 0.32% |
| 16-19 year old Account  | 2.4%    | 1.9%  |
| Livecats                | 4.1%    | 3.3%  |

| OVERDRAFTS              | Increased by Per Month % | EAR % |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| Midland Bank Account    | 0.6%                     | 1.13% |
| Meridian                |                          |       |
| Up to £2,000            | 0.6%                     | 1.13% |
| £2,000+                 | 1.0%                     | 1.5%  |
| £10,000+                | 1.0%                     | 1.5%  |
| £50,000+                | 1.0%                     | 1.5%  |
| Home Management Account | 0.6%                     | 1.13% |
| 16-19 year old Account  | 2.4%                     | 1.9%  |
| Livecats                | 4.1%                     | 3.3%  |

| LOANS           | Increased by Per Annum % | APR   |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-------|
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|----------------------------------|---------|-------|
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| £25,000+                         | 5.0%    | 4.2%  |
| £50,000+                         | 5.1%    | 4.3%  |
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| MIDLAND PLUS (Instant Access)                  | Gross % | Net % |
|--|---------|-------|
| All balances                                   | 4.2%    | 3.3%  |
| High Interest Cheque Accounts (Instant Access) | 5.0%    | 4.2%  |
| Up to £2,000                                   | 5.0%    | 4.2%  |
| £2,000+  | 5.2%    | 4.3%  |
| £10,000+                                       | 5.2%    | 4.3%  |
| £50,000+                                       | 5.2%    | 4.3%  |

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# East Germany was better, judges told

**Politburo leaders await verdict for killings by border guards**

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

EAST Germany's Communist leaders, only days away from a landmark court verdict, pleaded yesterday for mercy while accusing Bonn of applying "victors' justice".

"I am not a bloodthirsty monster who ordered killings, or even tolerated them," Egon Krenz, the former Communist Party leader, said. "A criminal I am not."

The 20-month trial is Germany's final reckoning with the East German past. Herr Krenz, with Günter Schabowski and Günther Kleiber, both former Politburo members, are accused of ordering the shooting of four men who tried to cross the death strip that divided East and West in the 1980s.

Herr Krenz, 60, was the most combative in the Berlin court yesterday. "The victorious power is exercising revenge on the representatives of the defeated power," he said in an hour-long appeal to the judges which swung between anger and special pleading. The prosecutor has demanded an 18-year jail sentence on manslaughter charges.

The public gallery, populated by Communist sympathisers, as for every one of the 115 hearings, burst into applause when he said: "In the German Democratic Republic we lived in a society which would never have accepted that youths

leaving their school desks and immediately graduate to the dole queue." The East German system was better. "The attempt to realise socialism on German soil was my task."

His colleagues were more repentant. "We tried forcibly to bring heaven to earth, and

maybe it is victors' justice, but who else will stand up for the victims of the losers?"

We failed," Herr Schabowski said. The new Germany was the only historical answer to our failed attempt". The 68-year-old, plainly fearing the nine-year jail sentence that could be imposed next Monday, said that he had seen the truth too late.

All three men denied that they were guilty of the killings on the East-West frontier. It is believed that the defence case is relatively strong. Although 263 people were killed while trying to escape, the rules on

the frontier were relaxed in 1983 and the three defendants were in the Politburo only from 1983 onwards.

Four people were killed on the frontier between 1983 and 1989. But although the Politburo certainly carried the overall blame for enforcing the frontier controls, it is difficult to prove individual guilt. In the last six years of the East German state the Politburo did not make any new decisions on the frontier, nor was there any explicit discussion about the shoot-to-kill order. So the defence argument is that the Politburo members in the dock are merely representatives of the defunct regime and that the trial was entirely political.

The prosecution has been proceeding very thoroughly. The authorities have tried and sentenced border guards, their commanding officers, generals and members of the National Security Council. That is, the courts have gone up every rung of the hierarchy in search of the guilty.

Herr Krenz, the Politburo chief, is at the very top of that ladder. The prosecution has had to accept there was probably never a written shoot-to-kill order, but every border guard knew he had to shoot if he saw an escapee on the death strip. That certainly came from above and derived its

authority from the leaders of the regime.

The most emotionally involved participant in the Berlin courtroom yesterday was Heinrich Schmidt. His son Michael, 20, a carpenter, was

using a ladder to climb over the wall, having successfully dodged all the other obstacles including a dog run, when a frontier guard shot him. The guard, who was about the same age as Michael Schmidt,

has been sentenced to 18 months' jail and from that Herr Schmidt found out for the first time the grisly details of the last moments of his son's life.

Michael was allowed to

bleed at the foot of the wall for three hours; had he been treated within 60 minutes he could have survived. The killing happened on December 1, 1984. Herr Krenz had been in the Politburo for a year. Herr

Schmidt has lodged his own case alongside that of the state prosecutor. "Maybe it is victors' justice, as they say," he admits, "but who else will stand up for the victims of the losers?"



A defiant Egon Krenz in court at Berlin yesterday before telling his judges in his final defence plea "I am not a bloodthirsty monster".

## America 'flouted test-ban treaty to upgrade its nuclear arsenal'

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON was accused yesterday of breaking an international arms treaty by trying to increase the power of its nuclear weapons.

US officials denied the charge and said they were merely investigating ways to modernise old designs to increase the safety and security of warheads, not to upgrade their strength.

The argument goes to the heart of the extent to which the nuclear powers keep their ageing stockpiles of bombs and missiles in fighting trim while they are forbidden by the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty from testing them, even underground.

The test-ban treaty, signed by 146 nations, was endorsed last year by the United Nations with the goal of halting the development of all new weapons of mass destruction. President Clinton hailed the

pact as a technological barrier that would end the arms race. Yesterday's dispute was prompted by the release of recently declassified documents by the overseers of the American weapons programme. They were acting under pressure from the National Resources Defence Council, Washington's arms-control watchdog group.

Matthew McKinzie, a nuclear physicist with the council, pounced on an admission in the documents that America's weapons laboratories are working on ways to provide "new or modified designs" for weapons. Dr McKinzie said such work could be intended only to increase the power and precision of warheads and to improve their ability to penetrate heavily protected enemy bunkers.

Among the weapons affected are the W76 and W88 warheads for Trident submarine missiles. Britain buys Trident missiles from America but designs its own warheads at Aldermaston which are believed to be based on the W76. Nicola Burden, an analyst with the British-American Security Information Council, another private arms-control group, said that any design changes by the Americans would have to be studied by British nuclear engineers to determine how they affected the missiles' performance and whether they needed to be copied.

Officials at the US Energy Department, with stewardship over the nuclear stockpile, insisted the current work did not involve major redesigns that would increase the power of warheads. The department was designing maintenance and checking for flaws.

Victor Reis, the official in charge of nuclear maintenance, compared the work to "tinkering with an old car". When you put in a new battery or have a piston-ring job, it's still an old car.

Dr McKinzie, however, believes the changes to be more sweeping. Using the same analogy, he said they could amount to putting a new and more powerful engine in a car.

He feared that the Government's nuclear physicists were getting carried away and could not resist the temptation to improve existing weapons.

He said they were making remarkable progress, even without testing, through computer simulations and pointed out that the laboratories' annual budget of \$4 billion (£2.5 billion) is a vast sum if all they are doing is maintenance and checking for flaws.

PRESIDENT KHATAMI of Iran failed in his bid for a more moderate approach to the European Union (writes Michael Evans). Western intelligence sources say other politicians opposed his attempts to arrange the return of all EU envoys to Tehran.

They were ordered home after Iran was implicated in the death of Kurds in Berlin.

Iranian leader loses fight for EU ties

BRITISH troops stood guard yesterday over one of the nerve centres of Radovan Karadzic's secret police network: a labyrinth of bugging and surveillance equipment where a Muslim was beaten to death last year.

Four Warrior armoured personnel carriers and 30 soldiers encircled the Banja Luka Public Security Centre in the confusing aftermath of a security coup early on Sunday when special police loyal to Biljana Plavsic, the Bosnian Serb President, took over the building. They in turn were evicted by the British troops, who, following new Nato Stabilisation Force (Sfor) guidelines in Bosnia, were restoring the security centre yesterday evening to local police control.

Crowds gathered outside the security centre, including at least 50 uniformed Serb

police officers and another 40 thuggish plainclothes officers who eyed the British troops aggressively. There was a tense stand-off, with British officers pushing local police back into the road. Major Dragan Lukac, 35, a Plavsic loyalist who commanded the coup, stood outside the entrance, talking to officials from the Office of the High Representative to Bosnia.

Despite the bewildering mixture of Serb forces involved, the overall message of events in Banja Luka was clear: Mrs Plavsic is now in open conflict with Radovan Karadzic, whose previously monolithic security apparatus is at last crumbling. Yesterday morning Mrs Plavsic gave a press conference in her presidency building, where materials illustrating Dr Karadzic's "big brother" methods went on display, including log

books and tape recordings of telephone conversations involving Mrs Plavsic. The International Police Task Force, which has been combing the security centre for more evidence of its clandestine operations, will release further details of its findings over the coming days.

SAS troops are known to be active in Banja Luka and are rumoured to be tracking Dr Karadzic's security forces. Zagreb: Croatian authorities are holding Pero Skopljak, an indicted Bosnian Croat war crimes suspect, in a Zagreb jail and are likely to transfer him to The Hague today, court sources said. Mr Skopljak was indicted in November 1995 for persecuting Bosnian Muslims. He was chief of police in the central Bosnian town of Vitez. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 17

## Pilgrims descend on Paris for rendezvous with Pope

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

TENS of thousands of young Roman Catholics from 160 countries flocked into Paris yesterday for the 12th World Youth Festival, a week-long celebration that will culminate in a vast open-air Mass celebrated by the Pope at Longchamp race course next weekend.

Days before the pontiff sets foot on French soil, his visit has already prompted an intensive security operation, a bonanza for the capital's soft-drink sellers in the sweltering heat and a series of religious and political rows.

At least 300,000 young people were expected to gather in the city — deserted by most Parisians for the month of August — as the biannual festival kicks off today with an opening ceremony on the Champ de Mars in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower.

The Pope will arrive on Thursday for his second trip to France in less than a year, and his seventh visit since 1980.

Organisers predict that up to half a million faithful will attend the open-air papal Mass on Sunday.

Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, the Archbishop of Paris, who will preside at today's opening ceremony, has referred to the "religious intensity and enthusiasm everywhere in France". But the anticipated crowds are only a fraction of the millions who turned out during recent youth festivals in Poland and the Philippines, highlighting the problems of the Church in a country that is nominally more than 80 per cent Roman Catholic yet increasingly secular in outlook. Less than one third of the youngsters gathering in Paris

have been issued with a "pilgrim's sack", containing maps, travel cards, meal tickets and a prayer book.

This year's festival, organised with military precision by retired General Philippe Morillon, formerly head of United Nations peacekeeping forces in Bosnia, has emphasised modernity and chic French style.

The thousands of young faithful have been kitted out with green T-shirts bearing the logo of an Eiffel Tower crucifix, while former punk rock fashion designer Jean-Charles de Castelbajac, whose other clients include the Duchess of York and Elton John, has produced a range of new "rainbow chasubles" to be worn by more than 5,000 officiating clergy.

Hundreds of buses, 38 special trains and dozens of chartered planes have been used to ferry the young pilgrims to Paris, where some have been lodged in the homes of French families, schools or sports halls. The new arrivals

are plied with free beer and soft drink.

This papal visit has not evoked the sort of political passions aroused last year, when the far-right National Front attempted to hijack celebrations of the baptism of Clovis as a figurehead. But it has inevitably provoked criticism from some religious minorities and those who say the secular French state has become too closely involved with a religious event.

Most notably, Protestants point out that the Pope's final Mass coincides with the anniversary of the St Bartholomew's Day Massacre in 1572, when Catholics killed tens of thousands of Huguenots.

Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, who is a Protestant, will meet the Pope just before his departure from Orly airport on Sunday, where President Chirac, a Catholic, will greet him on Thursday.

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## Joke wears thin as power-starved Mir strays off course

FROM RICHARD BEESTON  
IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S exasperated cosmonauts last night switched off Mir's central systems, after another computer failure caused the orbiting space station to lose its orientation and most of its power.

In what has become an almost comic routine of mishaps — if the lives of three men and the destiny of Russia's space programme were not at stake — mission control in Moscow reported that plans for essential repair work would be shelved until the latest problem could be solved.

"It is not extraordinary because we have had such situations before," said Vladimir Solovyov, the head of mission control, who like other space officials has become philosophical about the accident-plagued orbiter.

He insisted that the lives of the crew were not in any danger, but admitted that the reason for the computer malfunction was not clear and that the situation was at best "chaotic".

As a result of the computer failure, the spacecraft is now off course and disorientated, so that the solar panels are no longer aligned with the Sun and the power

**The computer is switched off and there will be no altitude control. We do not know the consequences of this chaotic flight,**

supply has effectively been cut off. To conserve energy all Mir's main systems, apart from life-support, have been shut off until today when a fresh attempt will be made to fix the computer and realign Mir with the Sun.

"Unfortunately, right now the system of station orientation is not operational. The computer will be

switched off until morning. There will be no altitude control at all. It will be chaotic. We do not know what the consequences of this chaotic flight will be," he said.

Unfortunately for the three-man crew of two Russian cosmonauts and the British-born Nasa astronaut Michael Foale, the latest setback came only minutes after

the crew had successfully docked a Progress supply ship with Mir; an operation which had been delayed due to a separate computer problem on Sunday.

The most serious consequence of yesterday's setback is that vital repair work will have to be delayed yet again. The Russian crew members, who arrived on Mir earlier this month, have been trained to conduct dangerous repair work on one of Mir's modules damaged in a collision in June. As a result of that accident, the Spektr module was punctured and had to be abandoned, leading to the loss of about half of Mir's power.

The cosmonauts had planned the first of six space walks to begin tomorrow. They intend to attempt to reconnect Spektr's power cables with Mir and repair the damage to the module's wall.

However, those key repairs will now be delayed by several days at the very least, and there must be growing doubts about the feasibility of such a dangerous operation at a time when basic components on the space station are malfunctioning with such regularity.

Patience must also be running out at Nasa, which helps to subsidise the Mir programme and uses the orbiter to train its astronauts. Yesterday a spokeswoman said that the agency was watching developments "carefully" and that Nasa was not worried about any immediate danger to its astronaut.

However, there is growing pressure in America to cancel any missions to Mir, not least because no scientific work has been carried out for months because the crew has had to repair the spacecraft.

Houston: Nasa yesterday postponed one day plans to bring the space shuttle *Discovery* and six astronauts back to Earth because of fears of fog. In the event a fine day was reported at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida. (AP)

## St Petersburg rooftop sniper kills reformer

FROM RICHARD BEESTON  
IN MOSCOW

MIKHAIL MANEVICH, the Deputy Governor of St Petersburg, was assassinated by a sniper yesterday, sending shock waves through Russia's second city, which has been struggling to shake off its reputation for corruption and organised crime.

Witnesses said a rooftop gunman with an automatic rifle and telescopic sight fired eight rounds into the car carrying Mr Manevich and his wife as they drove in rush-hour traffic down Nevsky Prospekt, the city's main thoroughfare. Mr Manevich was hit in the neck and chest and died in hospital. His wife was wounded in the head but was said to be satisfactory.

"It was a brazen attack in broad daylight," a local reporter said. "Whoever wanted him dead, also intended this murder as a message to the city."

While the murder of bankers and businessmen has become common in post-communist Russia, political murders are still rare. The last in St Petersburg, the former Tsarist capital, was that of Sergei Kirov, a Bolshevik leader whose death in 1934 was used by Stalin as the pretext for his purge.

The latest killing will not have such grave consequences for Russia, though the murder



Manevich: bright and committed reformer

will certainly have damaging repercussions for St Petersburg, where the city government has been struggling to wrest power from the Russian mafia.

Anatoli Chubais, Russia's powerful Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, said he was shaken by the "despicable murder", but added that the reforms Mr Manevich stood for would continue. "For me, Misha Manevich was not just an official — we have been united by a joint cause and the ties of friendship since our student years."

"Despite the continuing attacks, the position of the reformers' team, of which

Mikhail Manevich was a fully fledged member, has remained unchanged," he said. "We will become more determined in our response, regardless of those who stand in our way."

Yesterday's talks were held between government officials and by telephone with Frank Savage, the island's Governor, to arrange a voluntary evacuation this week after scientists monitoring the Soufrière Hills volcano detected a new phase in its cycle of eruptions. Experts at the Montserrat Volcano Observatory reported that "the crisis has entered a stage for which there is little precedent" and there was the chance of a "massive, cataclysmic-intensity eruption".

The Government had said that evacuation of the British dependency was a last resort and placed emphasis on its £41 million aid programme for the north of the island. But yesterday George Foulkes, the International Development Minister, agreed that the report had forced its hand.

"Over the past 24 hours the volcano has become much more dangerous," he said. "As a result, we have agreed to the voluntary partial evacuation."

The first islanders are expected to leave this week.

According to officials in Montserrat, evacuation plans are in place and could be executed swiftly. The plans, known as Operation Exodus, centre on the British frigate HMS Liverpool which is patrolling the sea near Montserrat.

A codeword from the Liverpool would divert merchant shipping in the area to help the evacuation. The US Government is also said to have offered troop landing craft to ferry people to the ships. Residents would be brought to an emergency jetty at Little Bay at the "safe" north end of the island, where they would be housed in a tent city until the ships arrived. The evacuees would then be taken to hotels in Antigua, Guadeloupe and St Kitts-Nevis until a longer-term arrangement could be made.

Whatever the reasons, St Petersburg will not be able to shake off its reputation as a lawless city, where even the most high-ranking officials are vulnerable to the assassin's bullet. Last year John Hyden, a British lawyer, was shot dead in the city's Nevsky Palace Hotel, less than a block from yesterday's shooting. He was hit by a bullet intended for a local gangland boss.

After a meeting at the Kremlin between President Yeltsin and Aslan Maskhadov, the Chechen leader, who agreed to resolve outstanding problems over sovereignty, security and economic co-operation in follow-up talks. The positive atmosphere at the talks and the release of the hostages should raise hopes about other kidnap victims — among them two British aid workers — being set free.

## Kidnapped Russians freed after 100 days

MOSCOW: Three Russian television journalists were freed after 100 days by Chechen kidnappers yesterday amid signs that the authorities in Grozny may be coming to grips with the current state of abductions. (Richard Beeston writes.)

Last night NTV, Russia's only commercial network, announced that its missing crew had arrived back in Moscow. Their release came only hours

after a meeting at the Kremlin between President Yeltsin and Aslan Maskhadov, the Chechen leader, who agreed to resolve outstanding problems over sovereignty, security and economic co-operation in follow-up talks. The positive atmosphere at the talks and the release of the hostages should raise hopes about other kidnap victims — among them two British aid workers — being set free.

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## Frigate stands by for urgent island pullout

BY DAVID ADAMS  
AND GLEN OWEN

EMERGENCY talks were held in London yesterday, with Britain poised to evacuate the Caribbean island of Montserrat after scientists said it could be wiped out by new volcanic eruptions.

Yesterday's talks were held between government officials and by telephone with Frank Savage, the island's Governor, to arrange a voluntary evacuation this week after scientists monitoring the Soufrière Hills volcano detected a new phase in its cycle of eruptions. Experts at the Montserrat Volcano Observatory reported that "the crisis has entered a stage for which there is little precedent" and there was the chance of a "massive, cataclysmic-intensity eruption".

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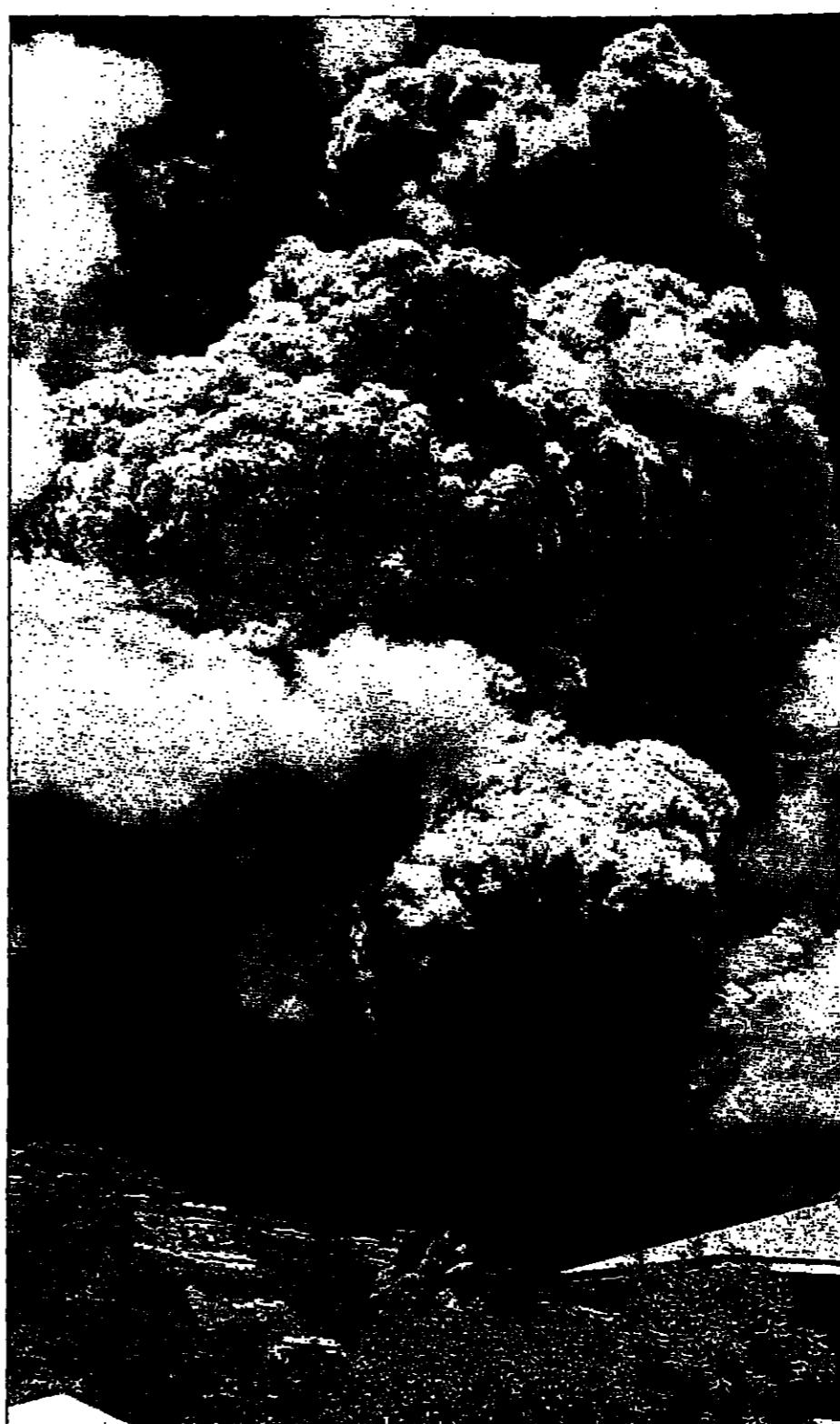
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Ash belches into the atmosphere during a recent eruption of the Soufrière Hills volcano. Scientists now say that a new eruption could wipe out Montserrat.

More than 4,000 of Montserrat's original population of 11,000 remain in the island, most of them huddled in 12 square miles of shelters in the north. The scientists, emphasising what they call "the potential for explosivity", made clear that the remaining residents are vulnerable to fierce eruptions. "People in the northern zone should seek shelter under a strong roof."

Of those who remain, about 1,500 people have been forced to seek refuge in overcrowded shelters where they depend on the Government for food, clothes and rations of vegetables, timed beef and rice.

Dr Richard Herd, a vulcanologist in the island, said: "The situation is very serious. Recent eruptions have pointed up that the volcano may be capable of sustaining a very much larger explosion."

As word of the evacuation

Washington: The secret for a longer life is simply to assume longevity, Dr Ronald Klitz, president of the American Academy of Anti-Ageing, said yesterday (Tom Rhodes writes). Despite average life spans of 72 years for men and 78 for women, people should make plans to live for longer. Dr Klitz believes ageing is a treatable disease.

## Beef seized

Hamburg: Sixty tonnes of beef seized in Germany had been imported from Britain in violation of an EU export ban because of mad cow disease, according to a customs spokesman. (AP)

## Kenya toll rises

Mombasa: The death toll here rose to at least 35 in five days with the machete killing of two men. President Moi of Kenya blamed opposition leaders for fanning pre-election tribal hatred. (Reuters)

## Guerrilla mercy

Lima: Twenty-nine Peruvian oil workers held in the jungle by Maoist Shining Path guerrillas were released unharmed after the rebels stole food, medicines and equipment officials said. (Reuters)

## Iraqi welcome

Baghdad: President Saddam Hussein issued orders allowing Iranians from Iraq to visit the country's religious shrines for the first time since the start of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq War. (AP)

## Storms shut port

Santiago: Storms forced the closure of a sixth port, Coquimbo, blocked the Pan-American highway and caused hundreds to flee their flooded homes, the Chilean authorities said. (Reuters)

## Bigger bite

Hoover, Alabama: Jeff Boling, who claims he found a condom in a Big Mac, is suing McDonald's for damages, saying he became ill and suffered extreme emotional distress. (AP)

## Spin doctors smooth Clintons' holiday path

FROM TOM RHODES  
IN WASHINGTON

EVEN the Clinton family holiday became a focus for White House spin doctors yesterday as the President arrived for a three-week stay in Martha's Vineyard, the East Coast playground for America's liberal elite.

No longer facing the requirements of re-election and last year's populist summer destination of Wyoming, Mr Clinton was said initially to have opted for the golf courses and dinner parties of the Vineyard this year. After criticism of the decision, however, including controversy over the owner of the farm at which the family is lodging, aides said yesterday that Hillary Clinton and their daughter, Chelsea, had made the final selection. "He wanted Jackson Hole in the

Grand Tetons, but was outvoted," one aide said.

Mr Clinton can have suffered little arm-twisting: he has spent two previous summer holidays on the island off Cape Cod instead of in retreats favoured by the masses. Only in less popular times, in 1995 and last year, had the Clintons chosen the heartlands of the West. A successful election behind him, the President has been free to return to the place where he once sipped cocktails with Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, dined with Nobel laureates and Hollywood stars and basked in the adulation of the island's faithful Democrats.

The party season begins in earnest today when he celebrates his 51st birthday at the home of Ted Danson and Mary Steenburgen, the actors. If the past is precedent, the Clintons will

spend much of their time being entertained long into the night.

They are expected to visit Katherine Graham, publisher of *The Washington Post*, James Taylor and Carly Simon, the singers, and Vernon Jordan, the lawyer and presidential confidant.

A skeleton White House staff is accompanying the family, including Bruce Lindsey, the ubiquitous deputy counsel and card-playing friend of the President. He and a clutch of National Security advisers will continue to monitor urgent matters such as the UPS strike and the Middle East peace process.

But the point of the holiday, aides said, was relaxation for all. It is not only the longest holiday the Clintons have taken while in office, but the final family gathering before Chelsea enrols

## Insurer argues Daisy the cow was guiltless of Chicago fire

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

AN AMATEUR historian from Chicago has challenged a cherished myth of American history by arguing that the great fire that destroyed the city in 1871 was not caused by a truculent cow called Daisy, reputed to have kicked a lantern on to some hay as it was being milked in a barn at night by its Irish owner, Catherine O'Leary.

Aides have continued to play down a conflict of interest involving the owner of their secluded home. The White House said that Richard Friedman, a Democratic contributor who is seeking government approval for a controversial hotel project in Boston, need not be excluded from offering hospitality to the President.

The local population, which had affected concern over extra traffic, crowds and security measures, appeared delighted by the Clinton's arrival.

Instead the blaze that destroyed a third of Chicago on October 8, 1871, killing 300 people and rendering 100,000 homeless, was almost certain-

ly set off by Daniel "Peg Leg" Sullivan, a one-legged horse cart driver who often slipped into Mrs O'Leary's barn for a quiet smoke of his pipe.

The new thesis is by Richard Bales, an employee of the Chicago Title Insurance Company who has pored over the records of the Chicago Historical Society, as well as those of his own firm, which handled most of the insurance claims.

According to Mr Bales, Mrs O'Leary could not have started the fire because she was in bed at the time. He argues that

Miss O'Leary's protests that she was asleep fell on deaf ears and she was forced to leave town with her family.

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# The boy lost in a foreign country

Robert Miles's parents are convinced that a vaccine is responsible for damaging him. Anjana Ahuja reports

**R**obert Miles runs up the stone steps to his house, ignores his mother and her visitor (me) and shoots into the living room. Oblivious to the antiques and furniture dotted around the room, the little blond boy pulls from his satchel a fairy cake topped with lurid green icing, and starts cramming it into his mouth. Crumbs fly everywhere.

Robert is eight, but possesses the social skills of a child half his age. He comes to stare at me so intently that our noses almost touch; there is no flicker of recognition that his parents are talking to him; he seems almost hyperactive in the way he speeds around the room, laughing. During this display of exuberance, he does not utter a single, coherent word.

Robert was given the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine when he was 14 months old; the date, December 5, 1989, is engraved on his father's memory. "Robert was completely normal beforehand," says Richard Miles, 41, a fine arts and antiques dealer. "He was walking quite well, and knew a few words. Shortly after the vaccine, he seemed off-balance. He began to knock into furniture, stopped talking and started to withdraw."

Robert's parents are convinced that the MMR vaccine, which has been routinely administered to infants since 1988, is directly responsible for damaging their child, who is now regarded by the local education authority as autistic. (In fact, the vaccine given to Robert was withdrawn in 1992 because the mumps part was found to contain a mild meningitis virus.)

Robert soon retreated into a world of silence. "It was very weird," recalls his mother Sarah, 40, who gave up running a textiles company to look after him. "He used to be able to say short words like shoes, socks and drink. Then he suddenly fell silent. I began to wonder whether I had dreamt

him saying these words. He felt like an alien." Then Sarah saw a magazine article about another child whose onset of autism seemed to coincide with receiving the MMR vaccine. "I read it and thought, that's us."

They are not a lone voice. Five medical studies later appear to link the MMR and MR (measles and rubella) vaccine to an increased risk of autism and Crohn's disease, a chronic inflammatory disease of the intestines. One of the authors of the studies, Dr Andrew Wakefield, from the Royal Free Hospital in London, told the medical magazine *Pulse* that the explosion of cases of Crohn's disease coincides exactly with the introduction of measles vaccinations in the States.

It was as if he had the world's problems on his shoulders'.

He was given similar criticisms two years ago by the then Chief Medical Officer, Kenneth Calman, rejected them. The Department of Health has always maintained that the chances of an adverse reaction is one in a million. Richard says: "The Government said there was no link between CJD and BSE, but that didn't stop them from taking action."

Dr Wakefield, who gets five cases a week of children whose autism or Crohn's disease appears to be triggered by the MMR vaccine, says he would like to see separate vaccinations for each condition. He says his work will lead to a "profound rethink" on vaccination policy.

Many of the affected children, including Robert, are having their cases documented by Richard Barr, a solicitor in Norfolk. In the hope that a legal challenge can be mounted against the vaccine manufacturers. More than 500 families have come forward. As well as autism and Crohn's disease, other complaints include arthritis and epilepsy.

Seeing their child fall silent was not the only shock for Richard and Sarah, who occupy a three-storey house in one of Hammersmith's leafiest

show that all these children were developing normally until they had the vaccine." The thorniest issue is trying to prove that the children were not born autistic, but developed similar symptoms as a direct result of their jabs.

"What clinches it for us is that the children are developing very odd behaviour, such as biting, and, to judge from their lifestyle, money is not the reason that they are pursuing the matter. Richard sees a wider issue: "We are immunising generations of children with a triple live vaccine, and we know very little about its long-term effects. That is terrifying, but when something goes wrong, it should be investigated."

The turning point could come in the courtroom. Mr Barr has been granted legal aid to research cases of alleged vaccine damage across the country. To date, 865 families have contacted him. Mr Barr, who has worked closely with Dr Wakefield, aims to bring his first case to court this year.

"Over the past two years we have investigated 80 children, and the pattern is remarkably consistent," Mr Barr says. "We have detailed medical records and home videos to

show that all these children were developing normally until they had the vaccine." The thorniest issue is trying to prove that the children were not born autistic, but developed similar symptoms as a direct result of their jabs.

"What clinches it for us is that the children are developing very odd behaviour, such as biting, and, to judge from their lifestyle, money is not the reason that they are pursuing the matter. Richard sees a wider issue: "We are immunising generations of children with a triple live vaccine, and we know very little about its long-term effects. That is terrifying, but when something goes wrong, it should be investigated."

In the 1994 UK campaign to inoculate all British children from five to 16 with the measles, mumps and rubella jab, the Department of Health assured parents that side-effects to booster jabs were very unlikely after being carefully studied by looking at large numbers of children in the United States".

In fact, the evidence on which this claim was based was rather more meagre. Before the campaign began, a fax from officials at the US National Immunisation Programme explaining that the only evidence that boosters were safer was based on questionnaires sent to college students receiving the boosters.

What is worse, the UK's Public Health Laboratory Service completed a study before the campaign began, demonstrating that children given the measles, mumps and rubella jab were three times more likely to suffer from convulsions than those who didn't receive it. Two thirds of the cases of

seizures were due to the measles component alone.

Its findings were supported by a similar study carried out in America by the Centres for Disease Control (CDC) at about the same time. The CDC monitored the progress of 500,000 children across America, tapping into computerised records to discover adverse reactions to the two triple vaccines: the MMR and DPT (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus). It identified 34 major side-effects to the jabs, ranging from asthma, blood disorders, infectious diseases, diabetes and neurological disorders, including meningitis, polio and hearing loss.

But if the incidence of seizure that leapt off the graph. The rate increased three times above the norm within the first day of a child receiving the DPT shot, and rose 2.7 times within four to seven days of a child being given the MMR shot, increasing to 3.3 times within eight to 14 days.

The success of vaccination is based entirely on assumption. Improved sanitation and hygiene, housing, better nutrition and isolation procedures have occurred at the same time that vaccines have been introduced.

The US Government notes that during the plague years of polio, 20,000 to 30,000 cases a year occurred in

America, compared with 20 to 30 cases a year today. Nevertheless, Dr Bernard Greenberg, head of the department of biostatistics of the University of North Carolina School of Public Health, has said that polio increased by 50 per cent from 1957 and 1958 and 80 per cent from 1958 to 1959, after the introduction of mass immunisation.

Despite the fact that the UK has had the MMR vaccine in place since 1988, and enjoys a high coverage among toddlers, cases of measles recently were going up by nearly one fourth.

The zeal behind the measles campaign was founded on the belief that measles can be a life-threatening condition. In America in 1990, at the height of a measles epidemic when 27,000 cases were reported, 89 died. But many deaths occurred among children of low-income families where poor nutrition played a part, as did failure to treat complications. In Africa, where children are markedly Vitamin A deficient, measles does kill. However, as study after study demonstrates, even Third World children with adequate stores of vitamin A, or those given vitamin A supplementation are likely to survive.

LYNNE McTAGGART

• Lynne McTaggart is author of *What Doctors Don't Tell You* (Harrington, £3.99), and editor of a newsletter of the same name.

Richard Miles and Robert: Shortly after the vaccine, he seemed off-balance. He began to knock into furniture, stopped talking and started to withdraw



## Anxious, depressed, suicidal — and still only a child

**A** generation ago, it was very rare for children to have a psychiatric illness or disorder diagnosed. Severe anxiety, agitation, depression and suicidal tendencies were confined to adolescence and adulthood. Children, at least, were thought to be immune.

No longer, however. Over the past 20 years, psychiatric, emotional and serious behavioural disorders have begun to invade childhood, causing suffering and distress in children as young as eight.

Peter Wilson, a child psychotherapist and director of the children's mental health charity Young Minds, says there is now clear evidence that rates of criminal behaviour, violence, suicide, drug abuse and anorexia are increasing among children and adolescents under 16.

A quarter of Britain's children cannot cope with life's stresses, writes Sue Corrigan

The fundamental cause, he suggests, is the rapid rate of technological change in society over the past 30 to 40 years, affecting all aspects of the way we live — employment patterns, educational pressures and family structures are all being greatly altered. "Kids are exposed to so much more information, so much more complexity," he says. "Growth

ing up has perhaps never been harder or more confusing."

The disastrous effect on many vulnerable children and adolescents in Britain is the subject of a documentary to be shown on Channel 4 on Sunday night. *The Madness of Children* focuses on three disturbed youngsters receiving treatment in an adolescent psychiatric unit in Manchester. One, Jody, tried to hang herself in a local hospital while waiting for a place in the 15-bed unit — the only inpatient facility serving half a million children and teenagers in the North East.

The programme claims that while there are more than 48,000 psychiatric beds in Britain, only 600 are available for those under 18, half the number provided just seven years ago. Once a week, the staff of the Manchester unit meet to decide which of the emergency referrals received in the past week are urgent enough to warrant admission to the one or two beds usually available. At one such meeting, four of the seven children under discussion were already being treated with anti-psychotic or antidepressant drugs in the community.

Peter Wilson and other mental health workers say service provision for mentally ill and emotionally disturbed children is exceedingly patchy, with



Growing up has never been harder, nor more confusing

some areas, such as London, well served, but others very deficient.

"With the way the health service has been reorganised over the past seven years or so, it has been left to local authorities and local purchasers to make decisions as to their priorities," Mr Wilson says.



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emerge once the brain has reached a certain point of maturation.

"We are not seeing any significant increase in the number of children who would be classified clinically as mentally ill," Mr Wilson points out. "What we are seeing are increasing numbers of children suffering from what would be termed severe states of turmoil, agitation and disorientation.

"They are suffering from extreme worry about themselves and their families, manifesting in depression, extremely disruptive behaviour, violence against either themselves or others, drug abuse and attempted suicide.

"Many of these children mutilate themselves with knives or razors, to try to transform the mental pain they are suffering into physical pain. Anorexia is another manifestation of this desire to hurt and damage oneself. It is also often an attempt to stave off the changes that come about during puberty, to stay a child, to ward off all the terrible stresses associated with growing up."

A London-based child psychiatrist, Dr Philip Graham, agrees that inpatient facilities for children and adolescents have been reduced overall, but says the figures also reflect more efficient use of beds, with more admissions for shorter periods. He says most professionals see significant benefits in shorter admission periods, with medications now used more commonly to treat psychiatric and emotional problems among adolescents, though these are still very infrequently prescribed for children.

Both Mr Wilson and Dr Graham say there is no evidence of any increase in schizophrenia among children or young teenagers, as this is a condition thought only to

children, backing up families with a whole range of community services, such as health visitors, counsellors and GPs sensitive to potential problem areas."

In the absence of adequate support services, however, many doctors are increasingly resorting to prescribing drugs to help desperate parents to cope with their children's violent and disruptive behaviour. Mental health professionals are concerned by this trend, arguing that little is known about the long-term effects of anti-psychotic and antidepressant drugs on children under 16.

They fear that Britain will follow the example of the United States, where more than 400,000 children are now taking Prozac, an antidepressant. *The Madness of Children* points out that there are no guidelines for treating children and adolescents with psychiatric drugs in the UK, and says the Department of Health cannot give figures on their use among British children.

"No child should be treated with medication alone," Mr Wilson insists. "They must always receive some form of therapy — group therapy, psychotherapy, music therapy, whatever. The fundamental cause of the problems these children suffer is a breakdown in their relationship with others, and the causes must be identified if the problem is to be addressed satisfactorily."

• *The Madness of Children* will be shown on Channel 4 on Sunday at 7.30pm.

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# Chilling out at Motel California

It's the first summer of their adult lives and they're spending it round a pool hoping to break into MTV. Giles Whittell meets California's generation extras

**Y**ou gotta love this job, as the lifeguards say. My assignment was to meet and interview people such as Athena Kinner, who, for the past few weeks, have been reclining around a swimming pool on a cliff overlooking the Pacific, acting as extras for 500 hours of summer programming being produced there for the pop video network MTV.

Athena, aged 18, is pleasantly unaffected by the standards of most Californian bombshells her age. "I'm a beach girl," she says. "That's what describes me."

Jessica, in tight leopardskin, has more of a way with words. "She's a peach," she says of her friend. "And I'm a mango."

All the same, it was Athena whose striking curves and sunny disposition got her chosen for an on-camera "classified" — a chance to introduce herself to potential boyfriends from among MTV's several million viewers.

Surprisingly, she received only 40 replies. Less surprisingly, it turns out that she has already appeared on an episode of *Baywatch*.

The set of *Baywatch* has much in common with the converted marine theme park half an hour south of Los Angeles that MTV calls its "Motel California". Both have the sea near by, the sun almost always overhead; plenty of fit bodies in swimsuits and much expensive camera equipment.

The difference is that the motel swarms with up to 100 extras a day, none of them is paid, and there is no semblance of a plot in what unfolds here. Everyone has turned up for the sheer fun of being human wallpaper.

To wit, Mary Walker, 18, who lives round the corner, will be starting college in LA this autumn. "We were bored, we came down and we stayed," she says, hanging out with friends near the hot tub. They all have their backs to the ocean.

Did they come to meet new people, or to be on television?

"TV," says Melissa Coletto without hesitation. Also 18 and from near by, she plans to study architecture in Atlanta but really hopes to be an actress.

"I want to be discovered," she admits. "Besides, what else would we do?"

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## The secret of being a good stepmother

Pierce Brosnan's grown-up children are making him keep his promise never to remarry. But as Serena Allott discovered, adult stepchildren can be a joy

I was five years into my life as a stepmother when I felt I'd finally made the grade. It was a hot afternoon two summers ago when my stepdaughter, then 19, rang to say she had just acquired something that she had to show me. It was something she had wanted for ages but, having got it, she wasn't sure. Could she come over?

Twenty minutes later she strode into my kitchen, dropped her jeans and, peeling a plaster off one perfect golden buttock, revealed what beneath the blood and iodine. I could just make out as a tattoo. "You're the first person to see it," she panted. "Tell me, honestly, what do you think?"

I remember the moment as one of pure joy. In my bank of

perfect memories it rides almost as high as the birth of my second son, who had the grace to slip into this world extremely quickly, having caused me very little pain.

Camilla had chosen to show me first her mother was, in fact, abroad, but she had friends by the score. That proved, I felt, that somewhere along the line I must have done something right.

I hadn't, as it happened, started from a position of wrong, at least not in my eyes. My husband had been di-

vored for ten years when I first met her. Camilla and her brother, Marcus, were 14 and 16 when we first exchanged shy smiles across a restaurant table. "Almost adult," I gaily presumed. "They'll be glad that their father has met someone who will make him happy again." That was naive of me — and, given that I have enough step-relations to form a small family staircase, unforlucky.

I was 18 when I first met my stepfather and initially indifferent to his charms because — and only because — I resented anyone stepping into my father's shoes — even though he had vacated those shoes by dying in an accident six years before. I should have remembered my outrage at having an "outsider" try to join what was left of my family; my embarrassment at the thought that my mother was in all probability doing IT, at her age, for heaven's sake.

My mother resorted to cur-

ing to win me round: we arranged to meet one evening — him, her, my sister and me but (by design, I discovered many years after) my mother never turned up. By the end of that evening, my sister and I had discovered the man who had sustained and nurtured us ever since.

For me it was easy. I inherited two good-looking, well-mannered, intelligent and funny adolescents who

have never lived with us. Their mother lives in a large house two miles from us; we don't have enough rooms to offer them more than a sofa to sleep on. We meet for meals, walks and holidays.

Ours is, therefore, a relationship largely based on fun. It's not our phone bill they run up, we don't lie awake worrying,

and his daughter, I am tall and blonde. When people assume I am Camilla's mother I am born between glowing with pride and rushing to the loo to count my wrinkles.

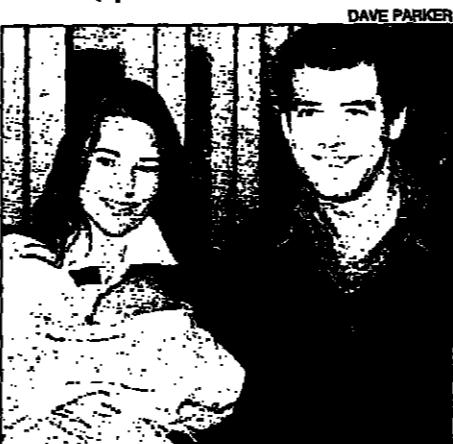
Like any relationship, it has

had its down side. I am financially responsible for two children; for much of our marriage, my husband has been responsible for four. There have been bleak periods in the lives of my stepchildren during which I've worried that things would have been different for them had their father not had a second family.

I do sometimes wish we'd had a row.

I've had only one with my stepfather, but that's all you need. Years ago, I jumped from the roof of a narrow boat and landed on his camera; he shouted and, embarrassed and upset, I swore. And as I did so I realised that we had bridged the gap, we were treating each other like real family.

Perhaps Marcus and Camilla are less volatile — certainly they are less clumsy — than I am. Perhaps



Pierce Brosnan vowed never to remarry

if they are late home at night. Because I am semi-detached, I can enjoy them without the dampener of maternal angst — would I have enthused so about Camilla's tattoo if she had been my natural daughter?

She, Marcus and their friends give me an insight into a generation I would otherwise never have known: obviously a plus. But the accompanying minus is that knowing them as a parent, knowing that I could — just — be their mother makes me feel old. My husband's tastes are not catholic — like his first wife

our friendship for that is what it is: I have never felt remotely as if I were their mother) will continue to strengthen and deepen until we take it completely for granted. As yet I am still absurdly pleased by every indication that they like me. Marcus inviting me to his graduation was another red letter day. But I have long since felt pangs of sadness when — at the end of a happy evening — they go to a "home" that's not ours. And I find myself longing for step-grandchildren — even though mine will be a back seat in the christening photos.



Athena Kinner introduced herself to several million potential boyfriends on MTV — surprisingly, she received only 40 replies — and has appeared in *Baywatch*

so long doing so little so cool."

Down on a mezzanine, also surveying the pool scene, a beautiful political science student from Orange County responds tolerantly to a very square question about her favourite authors. "I'm not a reading person," she murmers. "It's boring."

The executive producer of this sun-drenched palace of pop is Paul Cockerill, an unflappable 37-year-old pro

with a cellphone and greying hair. "A lot of these kids have great personalities," he says.

refining in a sofa opposite the motel's fake reception. "It's such a joy to come here and find real honest-to-goodness people walking in off the street and performing to a T. Good things can happen here."

With respect to Mr Cockerill and his extras, an outsider at Motel California can easily feel he or she has wandered into a summer camp for epsilon semi-morons.

Aldous Huxley called the dopiest creatures of his *Brave New World*. Seldom in the field of human narcissism can so many have lounged around

network's New York headquarters in September, and Vanessa is delighted. "This stuff just seems to happen to me," she beams.

There are liloos in the pool, unused. There's a volleyball court, empty. There is a fabulous ocean 50ft away, ignored.

There are multitudinous ethnic groups here but — today at any rate — they do not mix.

As the sun heads down for its nightly bathe in the Pacific, six New Zealanders from a band called OMC amble over to their microphones under the gazebo to do a sound check. Producer types in wrap-around shades hustle the cutest girls into a jiggling bevy beside the stage. (Athena is front and centre.) After four hours of nothing, there is suddenly an air of palpable excitement. Bikinis are adjusted. Water is splashed on nut-brown thighs to achieve that glistening look so popular in magazines. At last OMC performs their song, called *How Bizarre*. As they do so, a whale surfaces twice, amazingly close to the foot of the cliff. No one seems to notice. It is bizarre indeed.

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\*\*\* APR IS 12.4%.

\*\*\*\* APR IS 12.4%.

\*\*\*\*\* APR IS 12.4%.

## EDINBURGH

San Francisco Ballet returns to Britain after an absence of 17 years with two programmes at the Edinburgh Playhouse (tonight-Sun, 7.30pm — except Thurs, mat 8.30pm and Sun, 8pm). The first, *Swan Lake*, continues his series of Bach's organ works in Greyfriars Kirk (6.45pm), and the Portuguese pianist Maria Joao Pires plays music by Schubert, Faure and Bach in the Usher Hall (8pm). Earlier in the day, (O)wens' *Heidi*, *Shostakovich's Fiddler on the Roof*, West End, Tebas Zimmerman, violin; Steven Isserlis, cello, and Stephen Hough, piano, join forces to perform chamber music by Mendelssohn and Brahms.

The 15-piece Edinburgh University Jazz Orchestra, under the direction of Eddie Secker, is playing at the Fringe every Tuesday to Saturday (Festive Club, Venue 53, doors open 8pm, 8.15pm, music starts, 8pm).

Over in the Traverse Theatre (Venue 15, 1.15pm-1.45pm), tonight's a preview of the world premiere of *Blue Heart*, two funny and disruptively plays by Cary Churchill. Meanwhile, *Flying Pig* (Theatre Company of Scotland) continues its tour of Shakespearean远ancy in Muthesius' *Prufessor*. Shakespeare's tragedy is performed twice in 20 minutes, with the Bard meets Tintin in the *V* Pub.

In the Assembly Rooms (Venue 3, 11.30pm), Steven Berkoff explores British sexual hypocrisy in the UK premiere of *Messing*. The Assembly Room's *Requiem* (Venue 10) and the Wheatsheaf's performance, at 8pm, of *Wounds to the Face*. Howard Barker's controversial exploration of how we see ourselves and others through the eyes of the other, from Fringe box office (0131-226 6138, 0131-226 5257 information).

## LONDON

BBC PROMS At 7pm, in the first of two concert this evening, Men Eldor

■ ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL: Updating this Shakespeare to modern times gives the comedy a good sharp edge. With Frances Cuka and Nigel Planer. Gielgud, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, NW1 (0171-482 2431). Tonight-Thurs, 8pm; mat Thurs, 2.30pm.

■ BEAUTY AND THE BEAST: Disney's film turned it into a Broadway musical. Julie Alannah Brighten and Alexander Harvey as the leads, with Derek Griffiths and Natasja Rostomian. Donmar, Trafalgar Court Road, W1 (0171-416 6060). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat, 2.30pm.

■ THE BIBLE: THE COMPLETE WORKS OF GOD: A new production, originally conceived by the Reduced Shakespeare Company, said to put the fun back into fundamentalism. Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-416 6060). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat, Wed 3pm, Sat 5pm.

■ CARNIVAL STREET: New musical by James Hall (the psychiatrist) 1960s, a working-class musician and his upper-class group. Terry John Bates directs Arts, Great Newport Street, WC2 (0171-416 5000). Mat 7.30pm and 9.30pm. Until Aug 23.

■ A CHASTE MAID IN CHEAPSEADE: Ironic title for Middleton's funniest comedy: lust, lust and just a touch of love. Moira Rylands plays Alice, the comical maid directed by Michael Rosenblatt. New Globe, New Globe Walk, SE1 (0171-316 4703). Previews begin tonight, 7.30pm. Opens Aug 27, 7.30pm. In rep.

■ NEW RELEASES: THE CLOUD-CAPPED STAR: Young women sacrifice her life for her family. Ritesh Ghosh's compelling and adventurous Indian drama, made in 1996. NFT (0171-928 2323).

HEAT AND DUST (PG): (5) Morals and manners of the British Raj, deliciously examined by Merchant Ivory. With Julie Christie, Graciela Saccchi, Shashi Kapoor. Curzon Mayfair (0171-368 1203).

♦ ♦ ♦ CONTROL: Dawdling sequel set on a cruise ship with Simon Bullock, Jason Patric and Helen Mirren. With David Burt, ABC Baker Street (0171-352 9772).

Odyssey: Camden Town (0171-315 2555). Kensington (0171-315 4214). Marble Arch (0171-315 4216). Stables Market (0171-315 4217). Victoria (0171-315 4218). Swiss Cottage (0171-315 4220).

Screen/Bar Street (0171-315 2773). UCI Whitley (01990 888591). Virgin Megastore (0171-315 4270, 2255). Haymarket (0171-315 1527). Trafalgar (0171-315 0301). Warner West End (0171-317 4343).

CURRENT:

♦ ADDRESSED TO LOVE (15): Sour romantic comedy with Matthew Stadler and Meg Ryan as spurned lovers and Helen Hunt as their director. Gina Gualtieri.

COMING UP: (15) *Heathers* (0171-315 2124); *Swiss Cottage* (0171-315 4220); *Screen/Bar Street* (0171-315 2773); *UCI Whitley* (01990 888591); *Virgin Megastore* (0171-315 4270, 2255); *Haymarket* (0171-315 1527); *Trafalgar* (0171-315 0301); *Warner West End* (0171-317 4343).

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ROSEMARY'S BABY (0171-582 6500)

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SWEETHEART (0171-582 6500)

THE TOWER (0171-582 6500)

TOPLESS (0171-582 6500)

UNDERWORLD (0171-582 6500)

VALLEY OF THE ULTRA-VIOLET (0171-582 6500)

# New faces, old hands

Last year the name was the Drambuie Edinburgh Film Festival. This year the name is the Scottish Screen Edinburgh International Film Festival. The change means plenty to the principal sponsors, the main enabling body for cinema in Scotland, though punters have not noticed much difference in the programmes. New British films. Samplings from the wider corners of international production. Weird documentaries. A soupcon of controversy, this year stirred by *Sick: The Life and Death of Bob Flanagan, Supermasochist*. And a retrospective saluting Edgar G. Ulmer, the only man in history to direct both Leopold Stokowski and the burlesque stripper Gypsy Rose Lee, though not, you understand, in the same picture.

The festival also has a new director, the film critic Lizzie Francke, and she opened proceedings with a flurry of pink titles in *Ma Vie en Rose*. This French audience-pleaser from a new director, Alain Berliner, explores the impact of a seven-year-old's transvestite urges on his parents' suburban paradise. Berliner finds a few too many easy solutions for such a tumultuous identity crisis, though the generous spirit and glitz of visual kitsch prevent the film ever degenerating into situation comedy piff. Michèle Larocque and Jean-Philippe Eccey excel as the harassed parents; child actor Georges du Fresne gives delicate shading to the boy who believes his destiny lies inside a dress.

Twinkling kitsch over, it was time to join the Edgar G. Ulmer odyssey, with the director's daughter and keeper of the flame, Ariane Ulmer Cipes, as our friendly guide. In resurrecting 26 works by this obscure Austrian-born director, who came to America as Max Reinhardt's stage assistant and wandered the world making films in six days, Francke was following footsteps first trodden some 25 years ago. Edinburgh then led

## FILM FESTIVAL

the world in finding significance in forgotten fodder.

This kind of retrospective brings both danger and delight. Dedicated buffs can savour an interesting, eccentric career, and catch missing items like *The Man from Planet X*, a charming diversion of 1951, or the moribund *Hannibal* of 1960, featuring elephants, snow and Victor Manuelle greaming in CinemaScope. The trouble is, once you move beyond the certified



Ulmer classics — *Detour* and *The Black Cat* being the most prominent — you risk wading through barren ground.

Given the handicaps under which Ulmer worked, one almost expected him to be the director of a film screening in the documentary section. Fast, Cheap & Out of Control. But he was not. Errol Morris was the maestro here; who else among American independents would tease our philosophical questions about order and chaos from the life experiences of a topiary gardener, a robot engineer, a wild animal trainer and an expert in naked mole rats? They talk straight to camera, but never become mere "talking heads". Morris dozes his images with surreal poetry, tilting his camera, intercutting inventively. This was delicious.

So, too, was Ross McElwee's *Six O'Clock News*, a further instalment of the American film-maker's unique documentation of his life and times. Fascinated and worried by the

roll-call of tragedies and bizarre incidents that comprise local TV news, McElwee decides to take to the road, camera in hand, and track down some of the subjects. He meets hurricane survivors, a Korean immigrant whose wife was murdered, and a garage cleaner crushed by concrete during an LA earthquake. As in Morris's film, chaos looms large in these lives; but McElwee, a gentler spirit, allows you to feel more of the emotional consequences.

Beside such compelling reports from planet Earth, some of the fictional festival fare begins to look a little artificial. On Friday night Face, the latest from Edinburgh favourite Antonia Bird, had audiences cheering madly. This, in case you didn't know, is the film that features Damon Albarn's acting debut. His part may be small — Blur's frontman makes only the briefest of appearances and utters a minimum of lines — but he does at least add his name to the list of pop stars who have successfully portrayed hoodlums on screen.

As to the film itself, once you strip away the rigorously stylised photography and a shallow attempt at political comment, all you have is a tawdry story of thieves falling out. It is right to give thanks, though, for the film's dark humour and the savoury cast, led by Robert Carlyle, Ray Winstone and Philip Davis.

Better news on the British front comes with *The Girl with Brains in her Feet*, a likeable comedy about a schoolgirl facing 13-year-old problems: period pains, an erratic home life, sex and its consequences, and pressure from the PE teacher who believes her to be the school's dream athlete. "Leicester, England, 1972," the opening title says; and the unapologetic insistence on local colour from an unfashionable pocket of Britain is one of the film's delights. Joanna Ward's perplexed heroine is another.

*Under the Skin*, financed



Damon Albarn (left), making his screen debut, with Ray Winstone in Antonia Bird's *Face*, one of the offerings at the Edinburgh Film Festival

## Big yellow taxi ride through hell

### THEATRE

Several of the brightest offerings on the Edinburgh Fringe this year are imports from America — and, no, I'm not thinking of Steve Martin's *Wasp* (*Assembly Rooms*), a cluttered satire about Mr Average Suburbante, with his fundamentalist religion, his goofy obsession with golf, and his half-mad family. Some passable lines — "the denial of my affection will make my son strong like me". "Oh God in Heaven, which is seven miles above the Earth — do not compensate for the clumsiness of the whole.

But Will Korn's *Helleb*,

presented by a Chicago company called Tamarind at the Traverse, has bite, pace, humour and a surprising sensitivity, and left me feeling I would never, ever complain about grouchy taxi drivers again.

After all, what happens to Loren Lazerine's unnamed cabby as he trundles through the Windy City in his yellow personmobile on Christmas Eve? His passengers include noisome evangelicals, a manic acid-seeking druggie, a gluey vamp, a couple who have sex in the back before reaching their motel, several drunks, a Hyde-like figure who asks him to make a right into that alley, and a nut who thinks the solution to Earth's problems is mining the Moon.

Korn has a nice ear for the argot of a subworld in which women go to Find-the-Goddess-Within classes, men boast of having their own partitions at the office, and love-talk is apt to consist of "I'm miserable", "I know you

are, that's why I feel so close to you."

But beneath the

Feifer-esque comedy there's a strong sense of two genders and one city in drastic disarray.

Among the indigenous offerings, there's a finely acted

revival of David Harrower's

*Knives in Hens* (*Traverse*), a bleak but powerful tale of a peasant woman's escape from mental and marital servitude that was much admired when it played in London in 1995. But the best novices have gone to another *Traverse* Scot, Mike Cullen, for his Anna Weiss, which involves the undeniably topical subject of false memory syndrome.

But as you might expect from the author of *Search and Destroy* and *The Lights, Howard Korder's Boys' Life* (*Assembly Rooms*) is also about the confusions of city living; but this time the emphasis is sex in its more joyless varieties. Danny McCarthy's Jack, fretting at wedlock, pretends to casual pick-ups that his son is his ward, and does all he can to ensure that his unmarried pals stay as immature as himself.

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## Hague's team has no future on the Left

The Tories lack both policies and principles, says Graham Mather

**C**onservatives have never enjoyed Opposition. Many approve Iain Macleod's dictum, "The Socialists can scheme their schemes, and the Liberals can dream their dreams, but we, at least, have work to do." The interest in policy of the Thatcher era was not typical. After John Major's defeat, many Tories rushed to assure the public that it would be a long time before they advanced any new policies — or indeed any policies at all.

This would have been the correct response if it had been Conservative policies that lay at the root of defeat. In fact, ideologically Conservative policy positions have been adopted by a Labour Government that can sometimes seem one of the most market-minded reforming governments Britain has seen. If the right policies mean success, it cannot be wise for Conservatives to become a policy-less party.

It was the perceived failings of Conservative ministers and MPs, their shortcomings and incompetence that put off the voters. As a leading Tory strategist put it during the election campaign, "they want our policies without us". So to turn away from Conservative policymaking would be misjudged and perverse. The correct response is to out-reform Labour to have better and more radical solutions to the "wicked issues" of state welfare, state spending and the machinery of government. Modern politics awards the prizes to those who reach the right policy solutions first, regardless of traditional political colour or label. Instead, on each of these priority issues, the early signs have been for policy-starved Tories to attack Labour from its left flank.

When Frank Field, Social Security Minister, opened up the issue of more autonomy for benefit offices, one would have expected Tories to rejoice at such Thatcherite thinking. Instead, a cry went up to challenge him to rule out benefit payments differentiated regionally. Yet surely reforming Conservatives cannot be happy with a £107 billion welfare budget predicated on the false basis that living costs and personal requirements are identical from one end of the country to another? The radical path would be to urge Mr Field on, rather than seeking to trip him up.

The persistent inability to make real inroads into government spending levels may be ending. After a quarter per cent cut in spending on services and pay this year, the projection for the coming year is of a 1 per cent cut. Does this merit Tory squeaks? Surely the right response is to hold Gordon Brown accountable for the reduction, and watch like hawks for any backsliding, rather than to suggest that Conservatives wish state spending to be higher.

Many Conservatives with Treasury experience have yearned for years for an independent Bank of England tough enough to ensure that, when in doubt, monetary policy is toughened against inflationary risk. With politicians in charge, the danger is always of action too late, leading to Britain's familiar go-stop, boom-bust cycles. The legitimate criticism of Mr Brown's

*The author is a Conservative MEP and president of the European Policy Forum.*

## Sundancers

AS Diana, Princess of Wales, soaks up the sun in Greece, her favourite ballerinas are having a less happy time of it. Dancers of the English National Ballet, of which the Princess is patron, have been banned from sunbathing.

When the *corps de ballet* returned from holiday, sporting complexions ranging from pink to walnut brown, the artistic director, Derek Deane, went quietly pale. Then he, too, went puce with rage.

**Pool pooch**  
THE barking of Kevin Maxwell continues. Katie Firth, of Stock Row near Henley, spent last week looking for her missing dog, Bengal. Eventually, the mutt turned up, safe. It had spent the time happily practising its doggy paddle in Maxwell's swimming pool on the other side of the Thames.

Neighbours twice reported seeing the dog in his pool at Sam after being woken by splashing. "It was such a relief when we found her," Firth says. "The vet said she would be all right." There was some be-

musement at how the dog had managed to cross the river, but her laps of the Maxwell lido suggest she is not afraid of getting her paws wet.

### Widening role

HOW heartening it is to see that between holding press conferences and photo calls, the Prime Minister has had time to enjoy the local flavour of the countries he has visited on his dual location holiday. Not for him a vacation lounging by the pool. He has played football against a local team and walked in the countryside. But most of all, the straining seams of his jeans sug-

gest he has enjoyed exploring local restaurants.

Mediterranean mamas everywhere would be proud to see that Mr Blair has been filling out. It is not yet a beef gut but it appears that he has not recently been knowingly under-lunched. "He was tucking in with relish," says one who found himself sitting at an adjoining table to the PM at an hotel in San Gimignano, the other day. After Blair's failure to say *basta* after all that pasta, one dreads to think how much he will enjoy *magret de canard* (breast of duck), a speciality of St Martin D'Oydes.

### Secret's out

BEST wishes to the Marquess of Milford Haven, who is to marry for the second time in a garden ceremony in Nantucket, Massachusetts, tomorrow. The Queen's cousin, known to his friends as Gorgeous George, is to wed Clare Wentworth-Stanley. She has also been married and is an occasional journalist: earlier this year she wrote an article for *The Express* about the hardship of being just too beautiful.

The Marquess's first wife, by whom he has two children, was Sarah, the daughter of the former Brent Walker tycoon George Walker. Their divorce has recently come



Wentworth-Stanley: marrying

through. Originally, tomorrow's ceremony was planned with the kind of secrecy one might find surprising from a popular chap who is a great-nephew of Earl Mountbatten and whose late-father, David, was best man at the Queen's wedding to Prince Philip. But then, somehow, there was talk of *Hello!* and the Duchess of York coming and the word was out.

P.H.S

**Kohl can't save EMU from itself**  
**Daniel Johnson**  
on the don who  
damns the euro

**U**nlike Tony Blair, Helmut Kohl does not normally interrupt his holidays in the dog days of August to speak to the press — let alone in a foreign language. After 15 years in power, the German Chancellor reckons he no longer has anything to prove. But on Sunday evening, a rare midsummer television interview was broadcast. For foreign consumption, the focus — inevitably — was on the single currency. Herr Kohl had a simple message: the euro will be a strong, stable currency. It was, he insisted, "a mistake" for the markets to assume that stability would be sacrificed in order to stick to the timetable for monetary union. To give stability anything other than top priority "is a price I will not pay".

Note the assumption that the stability of the new European currency is subject to the fiat of one country's leader. Yet Herr Kohl insists that the guarantor of the euro will be an "energetic, powerful" European central bank. It is an article of faith for Bonn that the new bank, based in Frankfurt, will be indistinguishable in "economic doctrine or *modus operandi*" from the Bundesbank. Any talk of a "soft" euro is dismissed as scurrilous rumour-mongering by the Eurosceptics.

Chancellor Kohl's reassuring promise of a stable single currency coincides, however, with the appearance of an alarming scenario from the pen of an Oxford economist of impeccable academic distinction, Dr Walter Elts. Published yesterday, his pamphlet (*The Creation and Destruction of EMU*, £7.50 from Centre for Policy Studies, 57 Tuition St, London SW1P 3QJ) eschews ideological polemics, and is published by a think-tank whose director, Tessa Kwick, was Kenneth Clarke's Europhile political adviser. Even so, Herr Kohl will certainly ignore it.

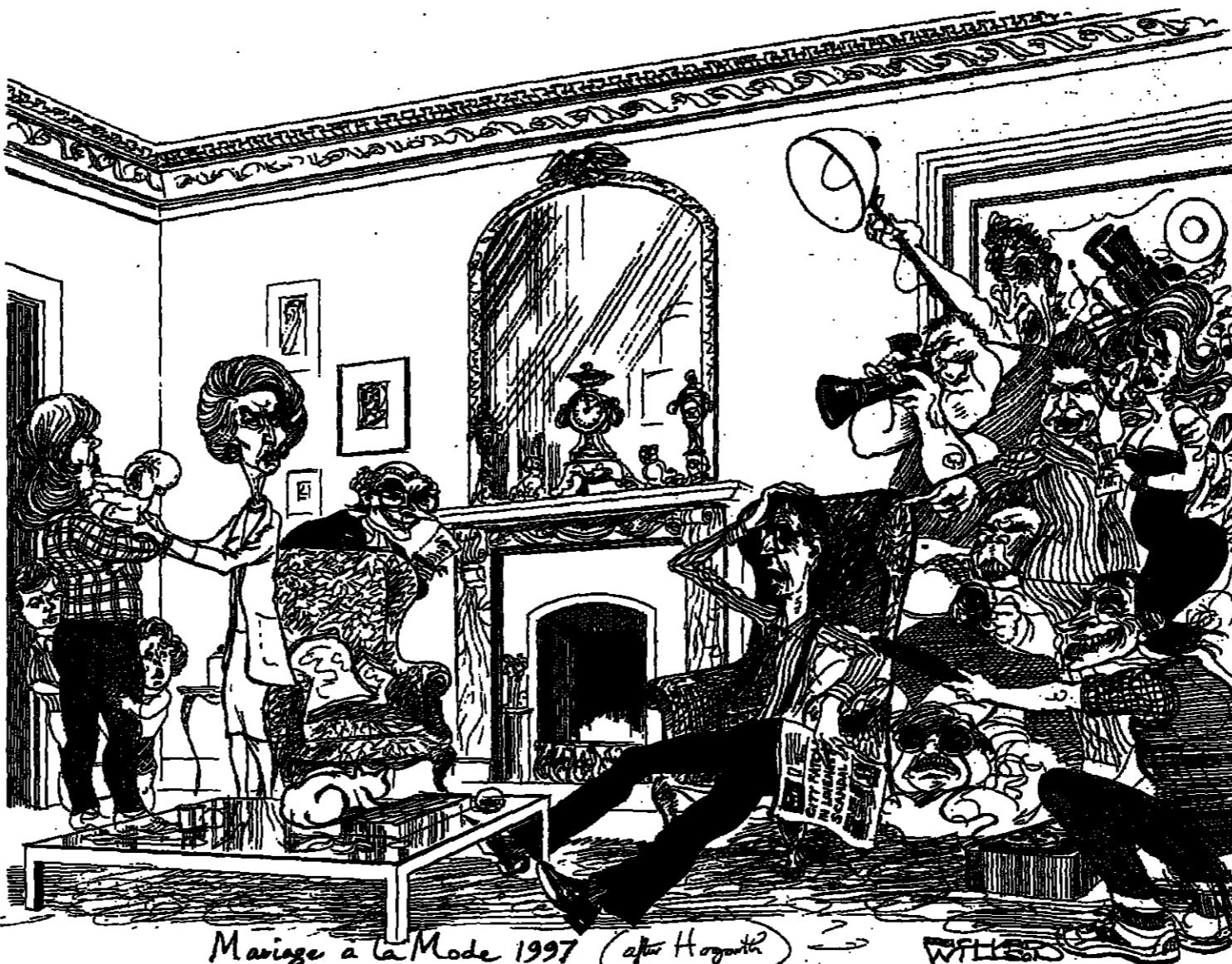
Dr Elts begins by quoting a few of the warnings of Europhile businessmen such as Martin Taylor of Barclays and Niall FitzGerald of Unilever, or transatlantic observers such as Alan Greenspan and George Soros, none of whom has any political axe to grind. All are worried that EMU will be vulnerable to speculation. He then examines the creation of EMU, and argues that 11 member states will probably participate in the first wave, with only Greece, Denmark, Sweden and the UK staying out.

So large a membership will favour French rather than German leadership, and Dr Elts reminds us that the French once dominated a previous EMU-like experiment, the Latin Monetary Union formed in 1865. Using the French franc as the basis of a common currency, it included Belgium, Italy, Switzerland and Greece. After three decades, it collapsed because the French refused to issue a guarantee to the other members that, if the Union dissolved, they would be repaid the gold value of their reserves of silver francs.

**T**his historical episode is not irrelevant to the main analysis, which concentrates on EMU's crucial transition phase from January 1, 1999, when the national currencies will be fixed against the euro, to December 31, 2001, after which the euro alone will remain legal tender. Dr Elts postulates that the weaker economies will soon come under pressure, because fixed exchange rates will allow investors to switch from, say, lire into marks without penalty at the first sign of trouble. As money floods in the Bundesbank will face a stark choice: buy lire and print unlimited numbers of marks, or face the certainty of an Italian departure from EMU.

The European bank will be important during this transitional phase, being able only to print euros, unless it can offer the kind of exchange rate guarantee that France refused to give a century ago. Citing Tim Congdon's research, Dr Elts points out that no such guarantee has been given, because only the national governments have the resources to give it force. In its absence, the Bundesbank will also refuse to act as guarantor. If the European bank then orders the Bundesbank to print vast quantities of marks, such an order could be challenged in the German courts. Any delay would be instantly fatal. As Britain discovered in 1992, governments and central banks can be brought to their knees in a matter of hours by the sheer volume of speculation. And as soon as the markets sensed that a member state was vulnerable, the whole structure of EMU would totter: "there will be staggering opportunities for profit".

If Dr Elts is right, then Chancellor Kohl must give substance to the "energetic, powerful" European central bank for which he now calls. He must charm — or more likely cajole — the Bundesbank into submitting totally to the European bank. It must be clear before 1999, that Germany is ready to print as many marks as the European bank demands necessary. Of course, with an election due in autumn 1998, such a blank cheque would be political suicide in a country where two hyperinflations are still a living memory. But if Herr Kohl cannot put his money where his mouth is, the single currency is unlikely to last even three years.



## Mrs Cook's home truth

If two bright people marry and procreate, something has to give way  
... probably somebody's dream

**W**ith opinions, as with antiques, provenance is all. Thousands of women could write to a pointing out that obsessive, workaholic, vain, competitive men spend too little time with their families and therefore often wreck them. But nobody would pay much attention. Dozens of columnists have said it and met with no more than bored shrugs: bah, women, always grumbling.

But now, hurrah! The truism is elegantly expressed in a letter to *The Scotsman* and signed "Margaret Cook". News editors blink in incredulous delight at such a chance to embarrass the Foreign Secretary, and the sad old truth is suddenly a headline. The rest of us might as well make hay while we can, and swell the chorus.

For among those who aim high and achieve high, this unequal competition between work and family life is one of the curses of the age. It is, to the modern middle classes, what gin was to the Victorian poor. It breaks hearts, oppresses the kind and gentle, warps the lives of little children and stunts the achievement of teenagers. Its poison does not confine itself to individual families, but spreads wider, creating a general climate in which betrayal becomes smart and serial matrimony a norm, because this is the life which visible public achievers lead. Media people, actors, literati, politicians, glib journalists whose nimble prose makes everything seem acceptable — all these are regularly seen to dump spouses and children for photogenic new partners, generally associated with their work.

None of this makes anybody noticeably happier. Sometimes the new relationship collapses, sometimes it staggers on until grey-haired men who largely ignored their first children find themselves, with their careers in decline, pretending to enjoy the raising of a second brood with a perry, demanding younger wife who can't quite understand where all the fun went.

But then, you wouldn't expect it to make people happier: very little of this merry-go-round of smart divorce is founded on any sensible reason. It is not habitual unkindness, violence, mutual contempt, incompatibility or even ungovernable sexual passion which causes it, but more likely the reasons delineated by Mrs Robin Cook. What price an affair born not of selfless tenderness but of obsessive

hurry, of ambition, of the emotional fragility of a high-stakes player in a trade without trust? As Mrs Cook cruelly remarks, when the workaholic's one solace is praise, "He/she is likely to become strongly attracted to any person who regularly and unstintingly supplies it, to the strong detriment of other relationships".

Ouch! Well, I know nothing of the Foreign Secretary's nature, but the picture is familiar. Anybody who has ever worked in an adrenalin trade should recognise it. At work — on the film set at the party conference, in the newsroom — life resembles one of those bright ensemble TV dramas.

Sharp-witted, amiable colleagues appreciate your talents, take your side against office enemies and share your triumphs with cries of "Yesss" and exuberant high fives. You smile into one another's eyes, locked in the heady intimacy of a hunting party gleaming over its kill.

Later, back home, you are just Dad. Dad, whose job is to rod out the kitchen drain or negotiate unsatisfactorily with cheeky builders about the damp. Dad, who is in trouble for having had a victory drink after work instead of rushing home to go and sit in a school hall smelling of gym shoes and be lectured by some corduroy teacher about Damien's inattention in Combined Science.

Your wife is unimpressed by your day's achievements, probably because she has a rather less glamorous job of her own which she struggles to fit around a mass of commitments to the young and the old, which includes buying birthday presents for your aged mother. Since you are such high achievers, you are intelligent enough to see that this is unfair. Since you are a human being, seeing it makes you even grumpier and less well-disposed towards the hearth and home.

So when the chance comes to stay longer at work — the place where

## Libby Purves

gest, he has enjoyed exploring local restaurants.

Mediterranean mamas everywhere would be proud to see that Mr Blair has been filling out. It is not yet a beef gut but it appears that he has not recently been knowingly under-lunched. "He was tucking in with relish," says one who found himself sitting at an adjoining table to the PM at an hotel in San Gimignano, the other day. After Blair's failure to say *basta* after all that pasta, one dreads to think how much he will enjoy *magret de canard* (breast of duck), a speciality of St Martin D'Oydes.

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"Throwing money at them's no good: they'd only drop it"

Kohl  
Save Europe  
from itself  
Daniel Johnson

THE TIMES TUESDAY AUGUST 19 1997



## DIVIDED THEY STAND

Why the Bosnian Serb power struggle matters to the world

The British troops who mounted guard yesterday over a police station in Republika Srpska stood on the symbolic front line of a power struggle between Srpska's Serb leaders. In theory the troops are on a neutral mission, defusing a confrontation between rival Serb paramilitary police. In practice, they are protecting the authority of Srpska's embattled President, Biljana Plavšić.

The decision to do so has not come easily to America and its allies. In the corrupting aftermath of a catastrophic war it is hard to distinguish white hats from black. The issue is whether something akin to the rule of law can displace the opportunist bandits who now control life in the Serb part of the confederal Bosnian republic established under the Dayton accord. Respect for law is a precondition for the internal negotiations without which Dayton's goal of coexistence between Bosnia's three communities cannot be realised. The outcome of this struggle could thus determine the fate of the Nato-led peace mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

President Plavšić is certainly an improbable heroine, an extreme nationalist who in 1992 embraced the perpetrators of "ethnic cleansing". When her main opponent, Radovan Karadžić, was forced under the Dayton agreement to relinquish public office, she was his choice as a pliable substitute. But Mrs Plavšić has proved less than pliant. Under American pressure, she has declared her readiness to abide by the Dayton accords. And personally, her probity and political courage set her morally apart from the Pale trio of profiteering warlords whose unlawful reign she has vowed to end.

All over Srpska and at every level of administration those most deeply implicated in wartime atrocities — and in the profiteering that accompanied the fighting — exercise control on behalf of these three. They are Radovan Karadžić, the indicted

war criminal and former President who still, in defiance of Dayton, pulls most of the levers of power; Momčilo Krajišnik, the old Karadžić ally whose membership of the tripartite Bosnian federal presidency is a huge obstacle to peace; and Dragan Kijac, whose estimated 30,000 armed security police are involved in everything from policing the black market to bugging the lines of the President and her allies.

Mrs Plavšić's decision to take a stand originated in a meeting last June with Madeleine Albright which convinced her that there was no alternative to Dayton. The next month, she astonished Serbians by publicly denouncing the Karadžić mafia for destroying the State, looting its revenues and reducing most Bosnian Serbs to "absolute poverty". She demanded Mr Kijac's resignation as Interior Minister, and when he shrugged that off, exercised her constitutional power to dismiss the Srpska parliament dominated by Mr Karadžić's allies and call fresh elections in October.

The ruling overturning her decision last Friday by Srpska's constitutional court is a telling example of what she denounces as the "terror which prevents people from saying what they think". Jovo Rosic, a judge who had declared his support for the President, had been beaten up so savagely that he was absent in hospital. Mrs Plavšić has Western support in forging ahead with elections despite the court ruling. She could well lose, and she almost certainly will unless she has access to broadcast media to carry her message to Serb voters. That is practical help the West should provide, with installations under Nato guard. Hardline nationalist that she is, Mrs Plavšić is at least realist enough to say of Richard Holbrooke, Bill Clinton's troubleshooter in Bosnia, that "American or not, we need him". In such realism lies what hope there remains of durable peace.

## CRASHES AND BANGS

Stock markets are still overvalued

In the dog days of August, financial markets are as fractious as the tourists who tramp sweatily around Trafalgar Square. With many dealers on holiday, trading is thin and price movements correspondingly volatile. Anticipating a stock market crash has proved as enervating as waiting for the thunderstorm that brings to an end an oppressively hot and humid spell. Is a steep fall in share prices really as inevitable as the rain that clears the air at this time of year?

Yesterday, the crash failed to materialise, just as it had the previous Monday. The FTSE 100 index fell by just 30.8 points, even though the Dow Jones industrial average had posted its second-biggest loss ever on Friday. But the worldwide stock market boom will not last for ever. All the signs are that both Wall Street and London are overvalued and will soon undergo "correction".

What Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, called "irrational exuberance" has been evident in both markets for more than a year. Between his outburst last December and the decline of the past week or two, American shares climbed by another 25 per cent. London has seen a similar bull run. It is hard to believe that such exuberance is justified by the underlying economic performance of the two countries.

In Britain shares have been buoyed by a Labour Government that proved less threatening than was feared. Yet interest rates are rising, presaging lower growth next year, companies are putting out profit warnings and the strength of sterling is hurting exporters. A strong pound has lured foreign investors into the British stock market; but the same phenomenon is undermining the longer-term attractiveness of its shares.

## LABOUR'S ROCK POOL

The party's personalities are reflected in the sea

John Prescott is the Dr Doolittle of this Government. That is not a reflection on his ill-health; few ministers toil as the Deputy Prime Minister does. Rather, Mr Prescott can talk to the animals. Yesterday, as the photographers captured so well, it was a crab. Asked about the chances of his colleague Peter Mandelson securing election to the party's National Executive Committee, Mr Prescott eyed his catch with its thick protective carapace, eyes permanently on stalks, long-limbed and laterally mobile, and asked "Well Peter, will you get on?"

Mr Prescott may have thought his *jeu d'esprit* would be quickly laughed off. Or perhaps, recognising the paucity of political news in August, he knew precisely how long, how very long, the laugh would last. Pundits even compared it to the famous time when Margaret Thatcher was reputed to have ordered steak while dining with the Cabinet. "What about the vegetables?" she was asked. "Oh, they'll have steak too," she replied — or so the culinary story goes.

Is Mr Mandelson a credible crab? He is certainly much more crab-like than the serpentine figure in which cartoonists delight. And the Labour Party is, altogether, like Cyril Connolly's *Rock Pool*, a struggle for supremacy captured in a watery metaphor. Mr Prescott is himself, clearly, a coelacanth — an ancient creature which should, by evolutionary logic, be extinct. His survival goes to show that natural and logical are very far from being synonymous. Tony Blair is, like the film star whales Orcas

or Willy, the biggest beast about. Like them, he inspires huge affection even though he is a ruthless predator capable of swallowing scores of individual plankton, Tory backbenchers and other brainless forms of life swept along by the tide.

The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, is something of a shark. The pension companies and privatised utilities certainly think so. Like the shark, Mr Brown cannot rest and devours a huge amount every day. Anyone who has heard of Mr Brown on what he drolly calls "holiday", alternating between bouts on the tennis court and hours devoted to digesting works of Portuguese econometrics and Bolivian social theory, will appreciate how his metabolism matches the workaholic of the deep. The Social Security Secretary, Harriet Harman, is perhaps best cast as a dugong or manatee, a gentle mammal dangerously out of its depth. The Prime Minister's press secretary, Alastair Campbell, has to be a squid: no creature uses ink more aggressively.

Nowhere, however, is the smell fishier than in Scottish waters. Although Mr Blair may bask elegantly in Mediterranean climates, any number of little molluscs cluster unattractively around the waste pipe which is provincial patronage north of the border. Barnacles cling on for all their worth when they should be cleared decisively away. Urchins spread poison and creatures which look to be all jelly lash out painfully. It is to be hoped that when Mr Prescott goes north this week he takes his shrimping net.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9NN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Pensioners' health policy 'shabby'

From Mr P. M. Elton

Sir, Having taken away the tax concession from pensioners who elect to pay private medical insurance, the latest blow now being inflicted is that those of us with an income of over £18,000 pa may be "asked" — what a weasel word — to pay for our National Health Service prescriptions (report, August 14).

New Labour proposes to snatch the benefits from pensioners which they have paid for through their NI contributions all of their working lives — many of us since the Attlee Government introduced the scheme. I infinitely prefer old Labour, who would never have contemplated such a shabby idea.

Yours etc,  
P. M. ELTON,  
2 The Birches, Felsham Road,  
Cockfield, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.  
August 14.

From Mr Irving Luke

Sir, If the Government really wishes to expedite a reduction in hospital waiting lists it should cast aside party dogma and, instead of adopting the spiteful measure of abolishing tax benefits on private medical insurance for the over-sixties, encourage private healthcare by allowing tax relief for all subscribers to such schemes.

Yours faithfully,  
IRVING LUKE  
(Consultant ophthalmic surgeon),  
44 Fairfax Road, NW6.  
August 17.

### Cost of medicines

From the President of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry

Sir, It is a curious argument which suggests that a seller is exploiting a hard-up buyer by offering to sell goods at a cut price. Yet when pharmaceutical companies reduce their prices to hospitals facing severe financial pressures to help them afford the medicines that their patients need, you suggest (report, August 12) that this is exploitation because patients may then ask their GPs for further prescriptions costing the full NHS price.

Yes, new medicines are more expensive. Companies now risk more than £200 million and 10 to 12 years of research into a new medicine before it reaches the patient. But far from costing "the NHS millions", as your headline suggests, medicines offer one of the real solutions to the funding problems the NHS faces by reducing or eliminating other forms of treatment.

At the same time the profits that pharmaceutical companies make on the sales of NHS medicines prescribed by both hospitals and GPs are rigorously controlled by the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme. The cost of medicines to the NHS remains far lower than in most comparable European countries, and British doctors also have one of the highest rates of generic prescribing.

We are now able to provide medicines to treat patients better and more quickly than ever before and to tackle conditions in the community much more effectively, often preventing the need for hospital admission. Many patients with heart disease, cancer, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis and mental illness have benefited from recent advances.

The real shame is that patients do not always receive such new medicines which, in the long run, can actually save the NHS money and improve treatment.

Yours sincerely,  
PETER READ,  
President, Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry,  
12 Whitehall, SW1.

August 12.

### Terrorism victims

From Mr R. J. Silburn

Sir, You report (August 13) that the Palestine Liberation Organisation has paid "millions of dollars" to the relatives of the man murdered on the *Achille Lauro*.

Would the IRA consider following this excellent precedent and start paying the relatives of their victims from their ample funds, which presumably will no longer need for expenditure on weapons?

Yours sincerely,  
R. J. SILBURN,  
10 Woodcock Hurst, Epsom, Surrey.  
August 13.

### Paul or Paula?

From Mr John Fletcher

Sir, In your report (August 12), "Orton's Beales script is revived by Radio 3", you say that "Paul McCartney apparently did not feature in the script", unlike the other three Beales.

As the script's radio adaptor, I can confirm that he has a wholesome and life-enhancing part — as a woman, the Virgin Mary, no less — and is played in the production (to be broadcast on September 21) by the gifted and elegant young Irish actress, Miss Jacinta McHugh.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN FLETCHER,  
Heronsgate,  
Pilton, Shepton Mallet, Somerset.  
August 13.

### Call for review of medical training

From Dr John K. Wales

Sir, I share an increasing concern with some of my colleagues about the future of medical education in the UK — a concern enhanced by the increasing demand for a reduction in junior doctors' working hours and by the suggested change in the funding of higher education recently announced by Professor Dearing.

The education of medical students is expensive. A good deal of this expense arises from the requirements of bedside clinical teaching and the length of the course. A reduction in clinical teaching in order to save money is likely to result in more theoretical teaching, as favoured by many European medical schools; it will also reduce the capabilities and clinical effectiveness of medical graduates and the professional aspects of patient care.

There are also concerns that clinical teaching is being undervalued by an undue emphasis on research ratings of medical schools. Many clinical teachers are not employed by universities but by the NHS. Their ability to support medical schools is being eroded by an ever-increasing clinical NHS load.

### Motorway controls

From Mr Peter Gibbon

Sir, I suspect that the latest government proposals for restricting entry and/or exit on congested motorways (report, August 15) are yet another example of misquoting US experience in an attempt to justify the unjustifiable. The lights on controlled-access highways in the US alternate during rush hours, between red and green every few seconds.

Their purpose is to limit the vehicles in the entrance lane to one at a time, avoiding bunching, or worse, stopping, where they join the main highway. As such, the lights are safety devices, not blocking devices.

It is difficult to understand why traffic already on a motorway should be regarded as more legitimate than that trying to join it. For example, the traffic on the section of the M25 between junctions 12 and 15 (one of the most congested in the country) could be reduced dramatically by closing all exits which served Heathrow traffic, forcing those vehicles to find another route.

The underlying demand, however, is a product of increases in our standard of living. Surely not even a Labour government is going to try and suppress greater national wealth?

This could also result in significant public purse savings: the Terminal 5

inquiry would rapidly be forced to conclude that the infrastructure to support a new terminal wasn't forthcoming and thus neither should the terminal be. But what good would this serve, since the basic question would not be addressed?

Increase in national wealth is the primary factor in determining motorway demand. Increased wealth results in more private vehicles, the carriage of more goods and in more leisure travel, whether by private or public means. This primary determinant is increased by the "turnpike effect" (so-called because it was observed after the New Jersey Turnpike was built in the US in the 1950s) from which extra traffic, over and above that forecast, actually results from new roadbuilding.

The underlying demand, however, is a product of increases in our standard of living. Surely not even a Labour government is going to try and suppress greater national wealth?

Yours faithfully,  
PETER A. GIBBON,  
103 Church Street,  
Staines, Middlesex.  
*open\_it@btconnect.com*  
August 17.

in the office that wind chill was experienced in winter and comfort indices were needed in warm weather; and when I repeated my request, I was told that nobody at Bracknell had heard of the latter. They would carry out a literature search for a large library fee if I so wanted.

I fear that Professor Crosland has a long, hard task if he wants weather forecasts and reports to include the combined effects of temperature and humidity — unless he can persuade the Meteorological Office to consult its pensioners.

Yours faithfully,  
D. B. JENKIN  
(Gas and oil consultant),  
30 Hale Hill Close,  
Pyrford, nr Woking, Surrey.  
August 16.

### Room at the top

From the Chairman of the City of London Law Society

Sir, Dr Mike Wise (letter, August 15) appears to attribute the ills which he sees as besetting the country to the fact that solicitors, barristers and certain other professionals draw their recruits from the most intellectually able graduates from the universities. He is wrong.

In order to maintain their pre-eminent position as a centre of legal excellence and to ensure that the profession continues to earn such large sums for the country as a whole, City firms seek, with some success, to attract and to retain the intellectually able.

It is unclear to me why Dr Wise should decry our success in doing so.

Yours faithfully,  
A. PUGH-TOMAS,  
Chairman,  
The City of London Law Society,  
65 Holborn Viaduct, EC1.  
August 15.

### Post-doctoral research

From Professor Sir Hermann Bondi, FRS

Sir, In her letter of August 13, Dr Shirley McCready made the most pertinent remark that the number of post-doctoral scientists working in British universities has trebled in the last 20 years. For any given amount of funding, there will be an optimal number of research workers. If the number is too low, some costly apparatus will be idle; if it is too high, many scientists will have to use poor equipment.

Moreover, if the number of claimants for limited funding is too large, an inordinate amount of scientists' time will be wasted on writing and refereeing grant applications that cannot be financed however good they are.

There can be little doubt that the British system now has many more claimants (including post-docs) for the available funding than would give the best scientific output. Reducing the number cannot be a quick or painless (or even fair) operation, but unless the need to do so is explicitly accepted, the future of British science looks bleak to me.

Yours faithfully,  
HERMANN BONDI,  
Churchill College, Cambridge.  
August 13.

### Animate objects

From Dr G. L. Bolt

Sir, The "de-ranged" lawnmowers, alarmed parking meters and mad prawns (letters, August 12, 13 and 14) are surely outnumbered by the floods of disabled toilets.

Yours faithfully,

G. L. BOLT,

11 Nelson Street,

King's Lynn, Norfolk.

August 17.

From Mrs Shirley M. Large

Sir, Perhaps the alarmed parking meters and de-ranged law mowers are concerned at the threat of the "large plant crossing" roadways under construction.

Yours faithfully,

SHIRLEY M. LARGE,

Charlecote Barn,

Little Wolford, Warwickshire.

August 13.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: [letters@the-times.co.uk](mailto:letters@the-times.co.uk)

### No apologies over British India

From Mr Richard Westwood-Brookes

Sir, During this season of politically correct contrition over the behaviour of our forefathers in "oppressed" India (letters, August 15; report, August 16), perhaps it would



## COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE  
August 18: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, the Royal Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children, this evening visited the Stakis Royal Deeside Hotel, Ballater, Aberdeenshire, and accepted a

cheque representing funds raised for the Society by the staff and guests at Stakis Hotel throughout Scotland.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeen-shire (Captain Colin Farquharson of Whitehouse).

### Birthdays today

The American President celebrates his 51st birthday today. Commandant Daphne Blundell, former director, WRNS, 81; Mr Gordon Brand, Jr golfer, 56; Lord Coe of Hartcliffe, 68; Mr John Deacon, guitarist and songwriter, 46; Mr K.H.M. Dixon, former chairman, Rowntree, 68; the Marquess of Douro, 52; Mr C.J. Driver, Master, Wellington College, 58; Dame Rose Heilbron, former High Court judge, 83; Mr E.R. Heward, former Chief Master of the Supreme Court, 85; Professor Sir David Hopwood, geneticist, 64; Mr Stephen Hughes, MEP, 45; Mr Richard Ingrams, former Editor, *Private UK*, 44.

Eye, 60: Mr C.W. Jonas, corporate property strategist, 56; Mr David Lodge, actor, 76; the Right Rev Dr Michael Nazir-Ali, Bishop of Rochester, 48; Mr Michael Roper, former Keeper of Public Records, 65; Mr Willie Shoemaker, racehorse trainer, 66; Mrs Phyllida Stewart-Roberts, former superintendent-in-chief, St John Ambulance Brigade, 64; Mr G.W. von Mallinckrodt, president, Schroders, 67; Dr G.E. Watson, chairman and managing director, Conoco UK, 54; Surgeon Vice-Admiral Sir James Watt, 83; Mr Henry Wyndham, chairman, Sotheby's UK, 44.

### Church news

**Appointments**  
The Rev Colin Lawler, Curate, Moulescoomb (Chichester); to be Team Vicar (same benefice).  
The Rev Nicolas Leigh-Hunt, Team Vicar, Wexcombe (Salisbury); to be also Rural Dean of Pewsey Deanery (same diocese).  
The Rev Judy Lynas, Assistant Curate, Lytchett Minster (Salisbury); to be NSM Curate, Longleat (same diocese).  
The Rev Ralph Mann, Priest-in-Charge, Broadwell, Evenlode, Oddington and Adlestrop (Gloucester); to be NSM Priest-in-Charge, Upton St Leonards (same diocese).  
The Rev William Marston, Team Vicar, Gossops Green (Chichester); to be Priest-in-Charge, Middleton-on-Sea St Nicholas (same diocese).  
The Rev Jonathan Meyrick, Team Rector, Tisbury (Salisbury); to be also Rural Dean of Chalke Deanery (same diocese).  
The Rev Jacqueline Mould, Assistant Curate, Drumrath w/ Mountfield (Derry & Raphoe, Church of Ireland); to be Vicar, Holy Trinity & St Matthias, Tulsk Hill (Southwark).  
The Rev Hugh Palmer, Associate Vicar, Fulwood (Sheffield); to be Vicar, same benefice.  
The Rev Robert Parrish, Assistant Curate, Leckingham St Philip and St James w/ Cheltenham St James (Gloucester); to be Priest Vicar, Llandaff Cathedral.

The Rev Graham Plastow, Vicar, St Michael, Enfield (London); to be Rector, Monken Hadley (same diocese).  
The Rev Mark Prevert, Rector, Blaina and Nantyffynnyd (Monmouth); to be Team Vicar, Halesowen with special responsibility for Llapd (Worcester).  
The Rev Jacqueline Mould, Assistant Curate, Drumrath w/ Mountfield (Derry & Raphoe, Church of Ireland); to be Vicar, Holy Trinity & St Matthias, Tulsk Hill (Southwark).  
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**BMDS: 0171 680 6880  
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000**

Come to terms with God and you'll prosper; this is the way of the world. Accept instruction from his lips and take his words to heart. Job 22:22

### BIRTHS

**ANNED - On 14th August 1997, at the Portland Hospital, (Mrs Yearwood) and Nicholas John, a wonderful son, Max Yearwood, son, Max Yearwood.**

**AL-SHARAFATI - On August 14th at The Portland Hospital, to Heba and Naseef, a beautiful daughter, Nadeem.**

**ASHLEY - On 29th July to Lucy (née Cook) and John, a daughter, Madeline Helena Elizabeth. Welcome to the world, Thomas and William.**

**BRIDGES - On August 15th at The Portland Hospital, to Helen and Anthony, a daughter, Isobel Mary.**

**GREENAWAY - On August 15th at The Portland Hospital, to Natalie (née Curran) and Pauline, a daughter, Rebecca, a sister for Benjamin and Nathaniel.**

**LEONORA - On August 15th at The Portland Hospital, to Sharon and Edward, a daughter, Kristin Iman, a sister for Alexander.**

**LIEHNAN - On August 15th, 1997 at UCH, London, to Kathy (née Copper) and Tony, a daughter, Emma, a sister for Ben and Rachel.**

**LEVITT - On 14th August 1997, to Emily (née Hayes) and Alphonse, a son, Frederick Falkner.**

**MARNER - On 16th August 1997, to Nicky (née Sykes) and Alex, a daughter, Molly Rose, a sister for Jack and William.**

**GHILFER - On August 13th 1997, to Jenny and Guy, a son, (Henry), a brother for William.**

**NYCHOFF - To Victoria (née Boban) and David, a daughter, Amalia, on Wednesday 13th August.**

**STRAUS - On August 13th at The Portland Hospital to Angela and Christopher a wonderful baby boy, Timothy Julian Underwood.**

**GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES**

**KINGSTON-WITHESS - George and Betty on 19th August 1947 at Grace Church, Amherst, Massachusetts, USA, now at Veyan Villa, Truro, Cornwall TEC 5PC.**



*Mists Rising off the Arran Hills* by William McTaggart, one of the works shipped to South Africa

### Reminders of the auld country auctioned

By JOHN SHAW

PICTURES collected by a South African industrialist to bring back memories of his Scottish childhood are expected to fetch more than £100,000 at auction in Perthshire.

Thomas Kirkness loved his homeland from afar and had 26 paintings sent out to Pretoria from 1929 to 1935. They include eight by William McTaggart (1835-1910), the Scottish landscape painter. The collection goes under the Sotheby's hammer at Gleneagles Hotel on August 26.

Mr Kirkness's father John was born near Kirkwall on Orkney and his mother came from Leith. They emigrated

to South Africa and founded a building and brick-making business there in the 1880s.

Thomas was born in the Orange Free State in 1886 but was educated in Scotland, first at Kirkwall and then in Edinburgh. It was an upbringing he never forgot, even when he returned to the family business.

As the firm prospered he began to buy paintings by Scottish artists. Although unable to return himself, he employed two firms of dealers to act for him. They were sent plans of Mr Kirkness's home in Pretoria and he specified the size and style of pictures he wanted for different rooms.

Paintings shipped out included a £45

McTaggart oil entitled *Breezy Day* now expected to make £5,000-£7,000. A £120 McTaggart oil entitled *Children on the Shore* is forecast to make £20,000-£30,000.

After the painter became known to a wider audience, the industrialist paid £500 for *Mists Rising off the Arran Hills*, now estimated at £30,000-£50,000. It was painted at Carradale on Kintyre where McTaggart spent the summers of 1883 and 1885. He travelled in the summer and early autumn of nearly every year to paint seascapes and moved from Edinburgh to Broomeknowe in 1889. He spent the rest of his life there and the local countryside became an important source of inspiration.

### University news

Fellow in Chinese Studies.

Deborah Cherry, at present Senior Lecturer in Art at Manchester University, to a Professorship in the History of Art from September 15, 1997.

The following have been promoted to professorships from July 1, 1997.

Paul Gough, Reader in Electronic Engineering and Computer Studies, to a Professorship in Space Science in

the School of Engineering.

Michael Hobday, Senior Fellow, to Professorial Fellow in the Science Policy Research Unit.

Nicholas von Tunzelmann, Reader, to a Professorship in the Economics of Science and Technology in the Science Policy Research Unit.

Peter Way, Reader, to a Professorship of American History in the School of English and American Studies, to be Director of Student Services.

Marc Williams to be Director of the Graduate Research Centre for the Comparative Study of Culture, Development and the Environment.

to a Professorship in Experimental Physics in the School of Chemistry, Physics and Environmental Science.

### New appointments

Brian Roberts, Professor of Engineering, to be Pro-Vice-Chancellor.

Michael Hawkins, Reader in History in the School of English and American Studies, to be Director of Student Services.

Peter Williams to be Director of the Graduate Research Centre for the Comparative Study of Culture, Development and the Environment.

### Royal engagement

The Prince of Wales will open the Children's Memorial Playground at Stirling Royal Infirmary NHS Trust, Livindale, Stirling, at 3.00.

The first English colonists arrived in America on the coast of Maine, 1605.

Gary Powers, the American U2 spy-plane pilot, was sentenced to ten years' detention by a Soviet court, 1960.

Poland became the first country in Eastern Europe to end one-party rule when Solidarity's Tadeusz Mazowiecki became Prime Minister, 1989.

Lady Mellor, of Smallfield, Surrey, left estate valued at £474,899 net. She left £5,000 to the Colchester Animal Trust.

Lady Butterworth, of Ollerton, Nottinghamshire, left estate valued at £368,002 net.

Sir Rupert Hardy, Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding Household Cavalry Regiment 1952-56, of Guisborough, Northamptonshire, left estate valued at £792,647 net.

The Hon Joyce Hotham, of Acomb, York, left estate valued at £634,445 net.

She left £10,000 to the National Fund for Research into Crippling Diseases.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY AUGUST 19 1997

## OBITUARIES

## CONLON NANCARROW

**Conlon Nancarrow**, American composer, died in Mexico City on August 10 aged 84. He was born in Texarkana, Arkansas, on October 27, 1912.

**C**onlon Nancarrow was one of this century's most original and fascinating composers. Using the antiquated technology of the mechanical player piano, doggedly punching his own piano rolls hole by hole, he produced innovative music of great rigour and complexity that was at the same time humorous, accessible and highly dramatic. An individualist who spent much of his life in Mexico, out of the mainstream of modern musical life, he nevertheless had a far-reaching influence on contemporary music, with such leading composers as György Ligeti and Elliott Carter among his many admirers.

Conlon Nancarrow was born on the border of Texas and Arkansas in the appropriately named town of Texarkana, where his father was a businessman who later became mayor. Nancarrow had a fiery and rebellious nature which his father tried to subdue by sending him to military school. This turned out to be a mistake, because Nancarrow, already a trumpet player, became interested in music — particularly jazz, which was to be an important influence in his own work.

In desperation, his father sent him to Vanderbilt to study engineering, but he soon dropped out and decided to go to Cincinnati to pursue his musical interests. There he heard and was influenced by Earl Hines, Art Tatum and Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*. He also got married, to Helen Rigby in 1932; he was 20; she was 16.

Next Nancarrow went to study counterpoint with Roger Sessions in Boston, where he also discovered politics. It was the time of Roosevelt and the "New Deal", and a time when the Communist Party appealed to a wide range of American artists and intellectuals. Nancarrow involved himself in fundraising for the Communists and when the party came to recruit for people to fight in the Spanish Civil War, Nancarrow joined the Lincoln Brigade. It was both a crucial and mysterious

episode of his life, a time of hunger, illness, wounds and dramatic retreats and escapes. Back home in Texarkana he was lauded and celebrated as a local hero.

Soon afterwards he moved to New York, where he immediately became involved in the contemporary music scene and where he met and became friends with Aaron Copland and his near contemporary, Elliott Carter.

But Nancarrow became increasingly disillusioned both with mainstream communism and, with the few concert performances of his increasingly adventurous music. The last straw came when he discovered that some of his former comrades had been refused exit visas by the State Department because of their Spanish Civil War record. Nancarrow was refused one too, as a "premature anti-Pascist". Since without a visa a US citizen could only go to Canada or Mexico, he emigrated to Mexico City, where the climate and politics were more to his liking and where the US dollar went a long way.

Nancarrow began to wonder how he could do without live performers, and thus ensure perfect performances whenever his music was played. So when in 1947 he received an inheritance from his parents, he went to New York to buy a player piano and have a machine custom-made which would enable him to punch his own piano rolls.

Back in Mexico, Nancarrow was now set up for the great work of his life, the *Studies for Player Piano*, a modest title for a vast achievement. There are now more than fifty Studies, ranging in duration from one to ten minutes.

Each Study is an exercise in counterpoint and, particularly, canon. The thoroughness with which Nancarrow explored this type of construction can only be compared to Bach, his favourite composer, and, along with Stravinsky and jazz, the most important influence in his music.

Pitch and time relationships, and especially the relationships between different speeds, are Nancarrow's chief concerns in the Studies — but this is to make the music sound dry and unappealing, where in fact it is uniquely exhilarating and full of humour and drama.

In Study 21, the so-called

Canon X, one voice starts in the bass while a fast voice begins in the high register. The two voices speed up and slow down respectively until they cross at a certain place (hence the title) and by the end, the fast one has slowed down and the slow one has sped up to an incredible tempo, to dazzling effect.

As he went on, the mathematical relationships Nancarrow used became increasingly complex, with accelerations, irrational numbers and mind-bending three-part Studies like Nos 41a, 41b and 41c — where 41c is 41a and 41b played simultaneously on two player pianos. It is music that

rejects Romanticism but paradoxically seems all the more passionate because of that.

The compositional process was extremely laborious, and much thought went into the structure of each Study before the actual work of punching the blank paper roll began, where each of the many thousands of holes had to be done by hand, one at a time.

Nancarrow estimated that ten hours' work went into eight seconds of actual music. One result was that Nancarrow's left forearm — his left arm operated the lever on the punching machine — resembled Popeye's; another is that the Studies are masterpieces of concentrated composition. Us-

"missing years" from 1951 to 1970 produced many of his most intense and creative works.

Thinking that no one would take him seriously until they could see his music in conventional notation, Nancarrow decided to make scores of some of the Studies. At around this time he became a little better known when Merce Cunningham choreographed some of the earlier Studies for his New York ballet company and the scores began to be published in the American *Soundings* journal run by Peter Garland.

Nancarrow continued to send tapes of the Studies to Elliott Carter, who did his best to help, but the music made little or no impression on the likes of Pierre Boulez and the European avant-garde of the time.

The breakthrough came in the late Seventies, when a series of LPs of the Studies, was released and the composer György Ligeti bought one in a Paris record shop. Ligeti was so keen to share his discovery of this extraordinary music that he used his enormous influence to gain Nancarrow a substantial grant from the McArthur Foundation and enthusiastically promoted Nancarrow throughout the European contemporary music festival circuit. The floodgates of world recognition were finally opened.

From then on, Nancarrow's life changed to that of practically any successful late 20th-century composer: tours, interviews, documentaries, festivals and commissions followed, and he began to write for human beings for the first time since the Forties. The Third String Quartet and the three Canons are arguably less successful than the Studies, whose superhuman qualities seem to be the essence of Nancarrow.

Inevitably, the question of repatriation to the US came up, but Nancarrow refused to tolerate the public recantation of his policies which would have been necessary. So he continued to live in a quiet suburb of Mexico City until his death.

He is survived by his third wife, the Japanese anthropologist Yoko Segurira whom he married in 1970; by their son; and by the son of his second marriage.

## HENDRIK VAN DEN BERGH

Lieutenant-General Hendrik van den Berg, former head of the South African Bureau of State Security (Boss) died on August 16, aged 82. He was born on November 27, 1914.

WHEN South Africa's apartheid Government at the peak of its power in 1969 brushed aside all opposition and established the Bureau of State Security, the nation at first saw it as something of a joke. Its purpose, said the Government, was to merge civil and military security organisations to deal with the increasing terrorist threat against the country.

But soon, the sweeping powers awarded to it, with the threat of a seven-year prison sentence against anyone who communicated information about the new bureau prejudicial to the State or its security, dismayed the press, the tiny parliamentary Opposition, several Bar Councils and academics.

And the joking stopped as it was quickly perceived what a sinister organisation John Vorster, then prime minister, had set up. It was headed by one of his closest confidants, Lieutenant-General Hendrik van den Berg, head of the security police and also his personal security adviser.

Vorster was replaced by P. W. Botha, who surrounded himself with military generals. In the National Security Council intense rivalry developed between military intelligence and Boss which was renamed the National Intelligence Service. Soon afterwards, van den Berg went bitters into retirement and farming. He re-emerged briefly during South Africa's last whites-only general election in 1987, when he stood unsuccessfully as a candidate for the right-wing Conservative Party formed by breakaway Nationalists.

Hendrik van den Berg was born on a farm near Vrededorp in the Orange Free State and joined the police force straight from school. He and John Vorster were both interned during the Second World War as members of the Ossewa Brandwag, a fanatical neo-Nazi Afrikaner organisation that carried out a violent campaign against South Africa's support for the Allied cause.

After the war van den Berg rejoined the police. Under his direction in the early 1970s

Boss agents were particularly active in Britain, where it was claimed that they collaborated with a dissident faction in the British secret service with the aim of discrediting the Labour and Liberal parties on account of their opposition to any links with the apartheid regime.

Boss successfully penetrated South African political organisations, notably the African National Congress, and kept close watch on individuals engaged in anti-South African activities.

But the task of Boss was also to curb the influence of the South African military which Vorster, a former Minister of



Police, distrusted. By the time he fell from power in disgrace in 1979, after the disclosure that taxpayers' money had been secretly used for clandestine propaganda projects, Boss had increasingly become a political network, spying on anybody considered to be an enemy.

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Hendrik van den Berg's first wife, a Welsh woman, died during his interment. He leaves five children by his second wife, Konie, who died in March.

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# Choose your fantasy team

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- You must not exceed your budget of £35 million. You must not pick more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager), from the same club. If after a real-life transfer, you find you have three players from one club in your team, you must sell one of them. No player may be picked twice.
- Players and the manager must be chosen from Interactive Team Football category lists, which include code numbers and values.
- Your players and manager will accumulate points in all 1997-98 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League Premier Division and Tennents Scottish Cup from Saturday August 9 onwards.
- The team with the most points at the end of the season will win the £50,000 first prize. You may enter as many teams as you like whenever you like. Readers entering a mini-league should tick the box on the application form. There is no additional charge.

## HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS

### POINTS AWARDED

| GOALKEEPER                       |                  |  |
|----------------------------------|------------------|--|
| • Keeps clean sheet (per half)** | +3 points        |  |
| • Scores goal                    | +20 points       |  |
| • Saves penalty                  | +1 point         |  |
| FULL BACK / CENTRAL DEFENDER     |                  |  |
| • Keeps clean sheet*             | +3 points        |  |
| • Scores goal                    | +4 points        |  |
| MIDFIELD PLAYER                  |                  |  |
| • Keeps clean sheet*             | +1 point         |  |
| • Scores goal                    | +3 points        |  |
| STRIKER                          |                  |  |
| • Scores goal                    | +2 points        |  |
| ALL PLAYERS                      |                  |  |
| • On winning side                | +1 point         |  |
| • Appearance†                    | +1 point         |  |
| • Scores hat-trick               | +10 bonus points |  |
| MANAGER                          |                  |  |
| • Wins                           | +3 points        |  |
| • Draws                          | +1 point         |  |
| • Loses                          | +1 point         |  |

\*\* Must have played a complete half in the match to earn +3 points

\* Must have played for 75 minutes in the match † Must have played for 45 minutes in the match

### POINTS DEDUCTED

|                              |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| GOALKEEPER                   | -2 points |
| FULL BACK / CENTRAL DEFENDER | -1 point  |
| ALL PLAYERS                  | -3 points |
| • Sent off                   | -1 point  |
| • Booked                     | -1 point  |
| • Concedes penalty           | -1 point  |
| • Misses penalty             | -1 point  |
| • Scores own goal            | -1 point  |
| MANAGER                      | -1 point  |
| • Team loses                 | -1 point  |

### TRANSFERS

Each team entered by August 9 will be allocated 6 transfers. From August 10, the transfer allocation will be decreased by 3 transfers each day until August 25, when all teams registered on that day will be allocated 20 transfers. Transfers registered after this date will be allocated 20 transfers for the rest of the season. Details of transfers will appear in The Times regularly during the season.

## HOW TO ENTER YOUR TEAM

- FOR POST AND FAX See the entry form below.
- BY TELEPHONE: 0891 405 011 (UK) +44 990 100 308 (International)
- Select your team and follow the simple step-by-step instructions. You'll be given the full set of selections (using the five-digit player codes) for each of your chosen players and manager. You will be asked to give your name, address, telephone number (maximum 16 characters). Finally you'll be asked to give a personal identification number (PIN). Calls cost 50p per minute, with a maximum of about eight minutes.
- BY THE Internet
- ITF is available on The Times website ([www.times.co.uk](http://www.times.co.uk)). This Internet version enables you to enter the game and play tournaments against other people, giving you access to league tables, fixture lists, player records and stadium news.
- BY LineOne
- You can enter ITF free on LineOne. This includes all transfers and checking throughout the season. For your software which includes one month's free membership of LineOne plus ten hours' access to LineOne and the Internet, call 0800 111 210. For more information visit the LineOne website at [www.LineOne.net](http://www.LineOne.net).
- BY Sky Sports Interactive
- Play ITF with Sky Sports Interactive on 0892 770 700 (calls charged at 50p per minute). Details on Sky Text page 118.

● BY POST Complete the entry form and send it with a cheque or postal order for £2 payable to Times Newspapers to the address on the application form.

● BY FAX Complete the entry form and fax it to 0660 600 563. Calls cost 40p per minute, or 10p per minute if you have a credit card. Enter your credit card details on the fax section of the form. Calls cost 50p per minute.

|                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| TEAM NAME        | (Up to 16 characters) |
| Goalkeeper       |                       |
| Full back        |                       |
| Full back        |                       |
| Central defender |                       |
| Central defender |                       |
| Midfielder       |                       |
| Midfielder       |                       |
| Midfielder       |                       |
| Midfielder       |                       |
| Striker          |                       |
| Striker          |                       |
| Manager          |                       |

### THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL ENTRANTS

First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
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# THE TIMES



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TUESDAY AUGUST 19 1997

## Stagecoach chief riding high in pay stakes



Brian Souter, a former bus driver, took home £3.55 million

**Siebe and  
APV trio  
part  
company**

BY FRASER NELSON

THREE directors of APV who were awarded share options worth £563,000 just days before they agreed a takeover from Siebe, have left the engineering company.

The three, Neil French, John Kennerley and Howard Stanworth, have left their positions with the food industry engineer as part of a management shake-up announced to the stock market yesterday. Compensation terms were not revealed.

The three were part of a team of four directors who agreed to and recommended to shareholders a bid for the food manufacturing equipment group. Only Richard Fenny remains.

Mr Kennerley, formerly APV's finance director, left on completion of the acquisition in June. He would have left the company with £245,000 of share options, £128,000 of which were granted 19 days before the takeover was announced.

Mr Stanworth was also awarded £128,000 of free APV shares under what the company described as a "long-term incentive plan" in the days before the takeover. The holdings were approved at a shareholder meeting held after the merger was agreed.

A Siebe spokesman said the departures were part of inevitable head office integration after the takeover. He would not comment on the level of payoffs.

## Budge under fire over pit closure

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government has ordered RJB Mining to justify the closure of the Asfordby superpit, opened just two years ago at a cost of £320 million of taxpayers' money.

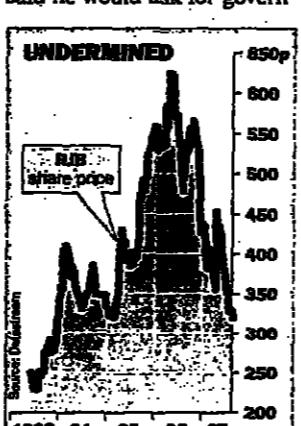
Closure of the Leicestershire colliery, announced yesterday with the loss of 490 jobs, was blamed by RJB or geological conditions. This was challenged by union officials. City analysts, meanwhile, questioned RJB's long-term financial prospects, alarmed by the company's apparent inability to safeguard the future of the pit.

As RJB shares fell to their lowest point since mid-1995, John Battle, the Industry Minister, said: "I have asked the company to provide me with further details on the difficulties they face which have forced this decision."

Richard Budge, RJB chief executive, said: "We cannot sustain economic mining operations while providing a safe working environment for our workforce."

Asfordby has incurred losses of more than £36 million since it started operating in 1995 but made a small profit in the first six months of this year. It has produced 1.5 million tonnes of coal. British Coal, which began development of the mine, had hoped that it would produce 4 million tonnes a year.

In 1994 RJB paid £815 million for most of the pits in England



ment support and did not rule out a management buyout of the colliery.

RJB is currently negotiating new contracts with the electricity generators, knowing it faces a tough battle to meet its customers' demands to match the cost of gas and imported coal. Failure to reach agreement is expected to hasten the closure of many other mines.

Gerry Mousley, director general of the UK Coal Producers, said he would petition the Prime Minister for more support. He said Labour had not delivered what it had promised the industry while in opposition.

The decision to close Asfordby has also been challenged by union leaders who will today send in their own engineers to assess the geological conditions. Neil Greatrex, president of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers, said he would ask for government support and did not rule out a management buyout of the colliery.

RJB is currently negotiating new contracts with the electricity generators, knowing it faces a tough battle to meet its customers' demands to match the cost of gas and imported coal. Failure to reach agreement is expected to hasten the closure of many other mines.

More pressure for electricity generators to use cheap fuel will come from the regulator's next supply price review.

Miners bitter, page 7  
Commentary, page 25  
Tarnished crown, page 27



The superpit at Asfordby opened just two years ago and cost taxpayers £320 million

## Markets repeat Monday calm

BY GRAHAM SEARGEANT  
FINANCIAL EDITOR

WEEKEND fear gave way to a second Monday of relief on most financial markets. Prices stabilised and little heavy selling was seen.

Share prices drifted gently down in London in a muted afternoon to the accelerating fall that hit Wall Street on Friday. Market-makers marked down prices about 1% per cent at the start, enough to deter sellers and attract some buyers in pausing trading.

After Wall Street opened quietly, London's FTSE 100

index ended a further 30.6 points, or 0.6 per cent, down at 4,835. But domestic investors remained sceptical. In contrast to Friday, when commodity stocks edged up, the FTSE 250 index dropped a shade more than blue chips.

The most reassuring development came in the latest statement from a member of the Bundesbank Council, who claimed a rise in interest rates would be damaging.

Hans-Jürgen Krupp gave a hint that Germany's central bank was unlikely to countenance a rate rise, either by allowing a flexible repo rate

today, or by shifting rates at Thursday's council meeting.

He said: "There is a good indication that a small rate hike would not have any weighty effect on exchange rates, and a larger hike, the effects of which would also be uncertain, would not be responsible given the domestic economic situation."

Both the dollar and sterling edged up against the mark.

The US Federal Reserve Board is not expected to raise rates after its policy meeting, which starts today.

Market report, page 26

## Consumers rescue public purse

BY GRAHAM SEARGEANT

THE consumer spending boom is at last coming to the rescue of government finances, enabling the Exchequer to repay much more than expected in the tax-paying month of July.

Buoyant revenue from income tax, VAT and excise duties, if continued, will ease fears of a public spending crisis later in the financial year.

The Exchequer built a surplus of £3.88 billion on the month without any privatisation proceeds, more than twice the £1.8 billion repayment in

July 1996, which included £900 million asset sales.

Income tax of £8.18 billion in July was 12 per cent higher than a year ago. Corporation tax was up 14 per cent, reflecting growth in profits.

Even these gains were eclipsed by proceeds of VAT, which were 32 per cent higher at a monthly record of £5.03 billion in July as changes to the pattern of VAT payments washed out of the system. Tobacco also chipped in an extra £400 million.

At this stage, public spending also appears to be under firm control. Departmental

outlays in July were posted at £21.6 billion against £21.5 billion a year ago.

July's fiscal surplus was much bigger than the City expected. The median of forecasts was for a public sector borrowing requirement of £800 million. Gilt-edged stocks gained on hopes that the Treasury will not have to raise as much new debt as anticipated. The benchmark ten-year bond gained 3% to £101.52, to yield 6.99 per cent.

In the first four months of the financial year, the net PSBR is just £4.4 billion, down from £8.1 billion in the first third of 1996-97. The June PSBR has been revised down by £200 million.

At this relatively early stage, the Government looks on schedule to meet its latest forecast of £10.9 billion for the full year. It will benefit from £2.4 billion this year from the levy on utilities, little of which will be spent in 1997-98.

Excluding privatisation proceeds, the deficit is also shrinking well. The borrowing requirement is £5.46 billion so far this year, against £10.4 billion a year ago.

Commentary, page 25

**JOHN PENNELL.**

Californian pole vaulter.

Astonished the world by becoming the first man to clear 17 feet.

**JOHN CHARCOL.**

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## Toys R Us ahead as sales rise

Toys R Us, the toys retailer, reported higher second-quarter earnings, attributed to higher sales of video games and action figures, and a lower interest charge.

The company earned \$36.7 million in the three months to August 2. A year earlier Toys R Us had a loss of \$7.5 million, affected by a \$55 million arbitration award against the company.

Quarterly sales increased 15 per cent to \$1.99 billion from \$1.74 billion in 1996. In America like-for-like sales rose 4 per cent during the quarter.

### Titan sale

Hampton Trust, the troubled property group, yesterday sold its 30 per cent stake in Titan, the Australian gold exploration company, for an undisclosed sum and bought a portfolio of ten companies from PDFM, the fund manager, for \$14 million.

Yesterday Hampton reported a reduction in pre-tax losses for the year ended March 31, from \$9.9 million to \$6.5 million. Turnover rose 53 per cent from \$20 million to \$30.7 million and losses per share were reduced from 9.91p to 6.6p. No dividend will be paid.

### Burmah buys

Burmah Castrol, the UK lubricants company, has acquired SMC Group for £23 million from Germany's Dynamit Nobel, expanding its position in the European coatings and resin binders market.

Burmah is also selling its Columbia Cement subsidiary in America to TACC International, an adhesives manufacturer, for £15 million. The disposal will give rise to an exceptional charge of £17 million.

### Naafi contract

Naafi, which runs more than 200 armed forces clubs and pubs, has awarded a £5 million beer supply contract to Bass and Scottish Courage. The three-year contract, to be accompanied by a £15 million investment programme by Naafi in its premises, replaces a system whereby beer is supplied on a club-by-club basis.

# Action over carpetbagging boosts funds of NSPCC

By CAROLINE MERRELL

CARPETBAGGING has helped to swell the coffers of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children by £150,000 through a scheme offered by the Skipton, Britain's ninth-biggest building society.

The society, which yesterday announced a 28 per cent increase in half-year profits to £18 million, obliged new customers opening accounts with less than £5,000 to donate £25 to the charity. The society's

profits were boosted by its investment in its subsidiary companies, which include a third-party administration arm, and an independent financial adviser.

Net lending was about £200 million while net retail receipts were £80 million.

Skipton said that carpetbaggers who opened accounts in order to get windfalls had severely disrupted its service to customers.

Leeds & Holbeck, now the UK's 11th biggest society, increased its interim profits 10.8

per cent to £9.8 million. The rise was on the back of an increase in mortgage lending to £202 million.

The society was also not immune to carpetbaggers — a total of 45,000 new accounts were opened in the first half of the year.

Many were opened in the expectation of the society shedding its mutual status. Retail funds totalling £57 million were shifted into the society.

Ian Ward, Leeds & Holbeck chief executive, restated the society's commitment to mun-

ability. He said: "We are firmly committed to remaining an independent mutual building society as we believe this is in the best long-term interests of our members."

Abbey National is raising interest rates on its Investor 90 savings account by 0.25 per cent points following the 0.25 point rise in the Bank of England's base rate on August 7.

From Wednesday, savers with Investor 90 accounts will receive 5.15 per cent compound annual interest on balances of

more than £2,000, rising to 7.3 per cent on balances of more than £200,000.

Royal Bank of Scotland said that it would put up its mortgage rate 0.25 per cent from next month.

The bank confirmed that it would increase its standard variable mortgage rate to 8.45 per cent after the base rate rise.

The Royal Bank of Scotland rate is now in line with the other leading lenders such as the Halifax and the Abbey National.

## Safeway launches £20m price campaign

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

**SAFEWAY**, the supermarket group, launched a £20 million price campaign yesterday in a move which its rivals are expected to follow.

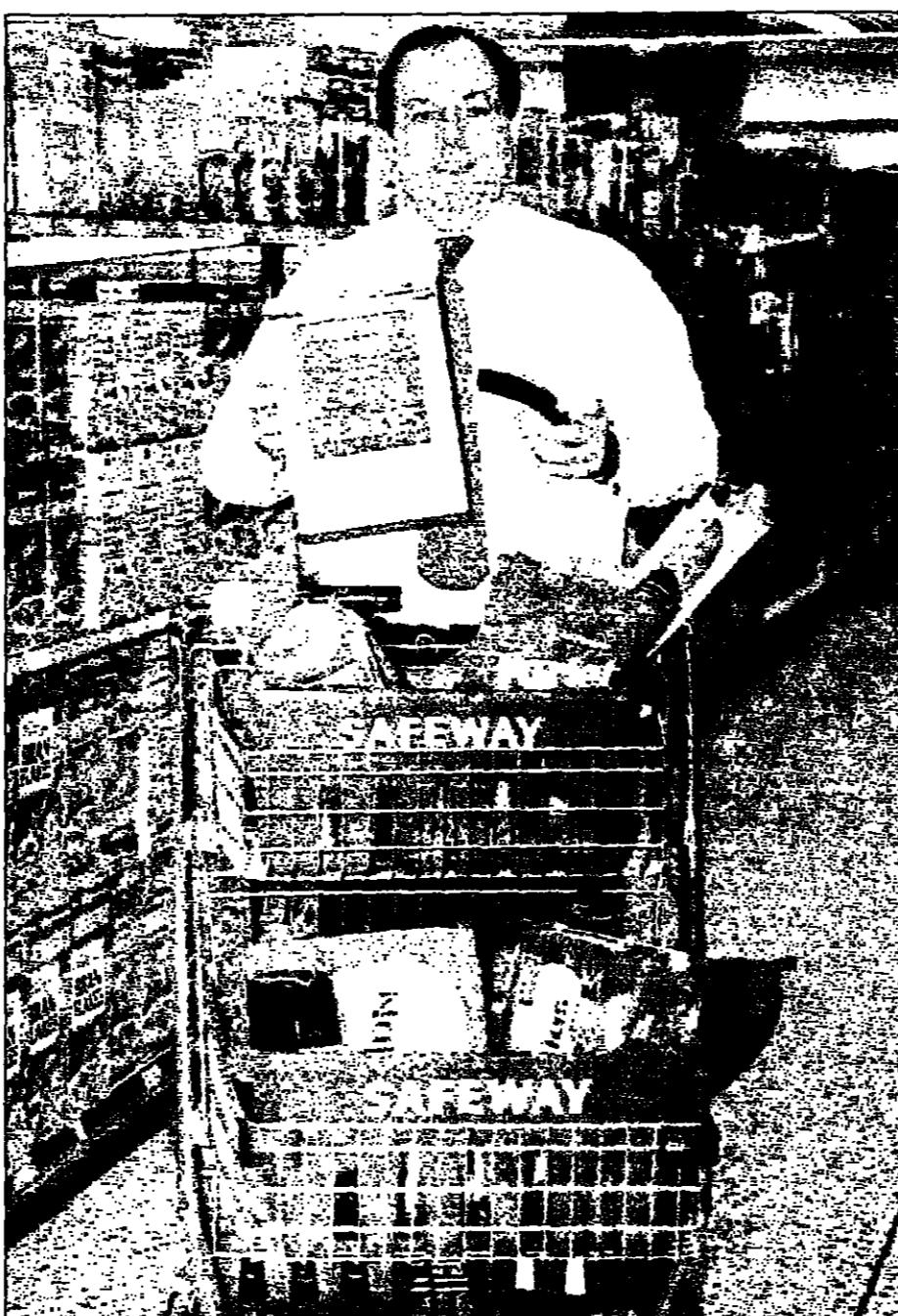
Under its new "price protected" scheme, customers will be offered certain products free if they manage to buy them cheaper at a branch of Tesco, Asda or J Sainsbury within a three-mile radius. The scheme covers 650 "everyday" items.

The Safeway initiative knocked share prices in the sector. It closed down 7.5p at 379p; J Sainsbury was down 7.5p to 441p, Asda 1.5p to 148.5p and Tesco 5p at 404.5p.

Analysts said that much of the £20 million will come out of Safeway's existing advertising and promotion budgets, but they nonetheless trimmed their profit forecasts. BZW, Safeway's broker, cut its forecast for this year from £455 million to £450 million pre-tax profit, while NatWest Markets moved from £458 million to £449 million.

Tesco and Asda are considered the groups most likely to launch campaigns offering still lower prices in the autumn. "There is a slight risk of a downward spiral, but it looks as if Safeway was mainly looking to make a pre-emptive strike," one analyst said.

Safeway, whose chief executive is Colin Smith, said it had launched the campaign because it had become aware that customers believe it has higher prices than its rivals.



Colin Smith intends the campaign to change shoppers' perception of Safeway prices

## BAe sends Prestwick redundancy notices

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 270 workers at British Aerospace's Prestwick plant in South Ayrshire, Scotland, will today receive redundancy notices after the cancellation of a loss-making civil aircraft building programme.

BAe announced the end of the Jetrain 41 with the loss of 380 jobs in May. The company blamed a tough market in regional aircraft. A spokesman yesterday said that demand for turbo prop aircraft has fallen and, where it existed, the market was highly competitive.

The company has since been negotiating with workers and

unions and said that 100 workers have opted for voluntary redundancy and 60 have taken jobs at other BAe plants. He said talks concerning transfers are continuing and that BAe has 300 vacancies across its operations.

Unions claim that the jobs could have been saved by transferring work from other plants and by redirecting some work currently sent to subcontractors.

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## British Biotech increases pensions for executives

By PAUL DURMAN

BRITISH BIOTECH, which wishes to launch its first drug next year, has more than doubled the level of pension contributions that it pays to its executive directors.

It will in future pay 19 per cent of salary into its pension scheme, up from a previous maximum of 9 per cent.

The change means Keith McCullagh, British Biotech's chief executive and highest paid director, will this year receive pension contributions of £57,600 or more if his salary rises from £500,000, up from £27,000 last year. The

rest of the Oxford company's 410 employees will not receive improved pensions.

A spokeswoman said that, having taken external advice, it was "very clear" that previous pension contributions were well below the levels typically paid by other FTSE 250 and pharmaceutical companies.

Dr McCullagh was paid a £106,000 performance bonus last year, giving him a total pay package of £419,000, 59 per cent up from £263,000 in the previous year. He also owns British Biotech shares worth £13.8 million and options worth

about £5 million. British Biotech's annual report shows that James Noble received £204,000 compensation for loss of office after resigning as finance director in February.

Mr Noble, who played a key role in establishing British Biotech's standing in the City, had to give up share options worth about £2 million on his departure. He made a profit of about £2.3 million exercising other options. Two other departing directors, Ronald Irwin and John Gordon, made £2.4 million and £2.9 million respectively from their options.

British Biotech's chairman, Colin Smith, said it

had launched the campaign because it had become aware that customers believe it has higher prices than its rivals.

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**R**ichard Budge is a man of foresight and imagination. In 1994, he had the imagination to see the potential for his little firm putting in a bid for what was left of British Coal and turning itself, overnight, into Europe's largest independently owned coal mining company. In July last year, he had the foresight to sell a chunk of his shares, bringing him a useful £1.2 million profit.

Some other shareholders may today be wishing that they had done the same as Mr Budge, for the price he achieved for his shares was 553p against the 312½p where they now languish.

The generous purchaser of his RJB stock was none other than RJB itself, an early enthusiast for the share buy-backs which are now so fashionable. With profits rising and RJB apparently demonstrating that there was indeed money to be made from coal mining, the buy-back was a gesture of confidence.

But by then the company knew that Ashfordby was a problem pit. What it refers to as "unique" geological problems had had the effect of bringing the roof tumbling in. Unless new techniques could be found, the undeniably rich seams of Ashfordby would be impossible to mine.

The miners of Ashfordby are insistent that there are ways of extracting the coal, but at a price. That price does not make commercial sense for RJB any more than it did to British Coal.

## The miracle Budge couldn't work



### COMMENTARY by our City Editor

would forcibly encourage power stations to buy British coal the economy looks risky.

Critics of the closure should bear in mind that governments can take long-term strategic views on the use of natural resources, but companies are in business to make profits.

If the aim of Mr Budge and RJB was to make a quick turn on under-priced national assets, not to save miners' jobs, we should not be surprised.

#### WH Smith chief must divide to rule

**C**onsidering the difficulty of the task, it is encouraging to see so many internal candidates vying for the top job at WH Smith. Bill Cockburn had barely ventured inside the business before deciding that BT was an altogether more attractive proposition.

But so keen for advancement

are the chaps at WH Smith that it seems they may even be putting together manifestos and, in passing, mentioning them to the odd institutional investor who might be passing.

This puts a new twist on corporate governance and we should almost certainly reconvince Sir Ronald Hampel and his gang to pronounce on the etiquette of such electioneering.

The new chief executive of WH Smith will certainly be in position before they can produce their report but there are growing suggestions that he may set about tearing the business apart as soon as he has taken his seat. Analysts and venture capitalists have all done their sums on a break up of WH Smith and they can find plenty of value to justify it.

They have, of course, done similar exercises on just about every company and precious little activity has emerged as a result. Sears was a favourite

break-up candidate for years but nothing happened and eventually the company was prevailed upon to initiate the deal itself. Now, Dalgety is in the frame as the favourite target for bored financiers.

The financial arguments for break-ups are rarely clear cut. In the case of WH Smith, however, there is a strong logical reason for why a break-up should be considered. It is that WH Smith is currently competing against itself. The relative success of its Waterstones bookshops and Virgin Out Price music stores is bought at the expense of the main WH Smith chain. This process of cannibalisation has been going on for years, and if it continues, the results could be exceedingly painful.

A break-up would allow the main chain to rediscover a raison d'être. Virgin would almost certainly be happy to regain control of its music business and Waterstones would attract potential purchasers. Whether that would produce the sort of break-up margin that analysts currently divine is doubtful: mutterings of around 15 seem highly optimistic.

If revenue remains buoyant into winter, it will be manna from heaven for the Government. At the moment, ministers are sticking doggedly to their spending budgets, but some will soon become incompatible with election pledges, especially as higher short-term inflation has shrunk their real value.

At this stage of recovery, the Government should be borrowing nothing, but the markets should not assume that buoyant revenue will translate into smaller gilt-edged issues this year.

#### Mogadon Monday

AFTER those fearful Fridays, thank goodness for Mogadon Mondays in the markets. Both owe much to thin August trading. Fund managers who could take a lead are away and market-makers can manipulate shares back on course.

Recovery has taken a long time to feed through into the UK's fiscal balance, as evidenced by years of over-optimistic forecasts of falling public sector borrowing requirements. Now, things may be coming good at last.

Underlying growth of VAT receipts may have been disguised by changes in the system of

## Cautious Argos reduces prices

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

ARGOS, the catalogue retailer, is cutting many of its prices in a bid to gain market share ahead of the crucial Christmas trading period.

In its autumn/winter catalogue, 98 per cent of its repeated lines are at the same price or cheaper than in the previous catalogue and the goods' prices come out an overall 35 per cent lower. The cuts will knock 0.5 per cent off the gross margin.

The company, which had a disappointing Christmas last year and was forced to issue a profit warning in January, also plans to take on more staff ahead of the seasonal rush this time round.

Some analysts were surprised at the aggressiveness of Argos's pricing. "It shows they are under pressure. They have

increased their cost base and need the volume," Sean Eddie at NatWest Markets said. Robert Miller at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson said: "They are being even more aggressive than usual on prices. They clearly don't want to be gazumped by Woolworths or anyone else."

The company yesterday reported that underlying sales in the first half had grown 5.3 per cent to £627 million. Like-for-like sales growth has increased to 8 per cent in the first eight weeks of the second half.

In the 24 weeks to June 14, pre-tax profit was down 11.6 per cent to £28.1 million. The company blamed the fall on the cost of paying a special dividend in May last year, and on increased catalogue and advertising costs.

In a cautious accompanying statement, the company said that "current buoyancy in consumer confidence and overall retail sales may not be sustainable". It nonetheless said that it expects a stronger second-half performance than last year and for profit in the year as a whole to be above last year's.

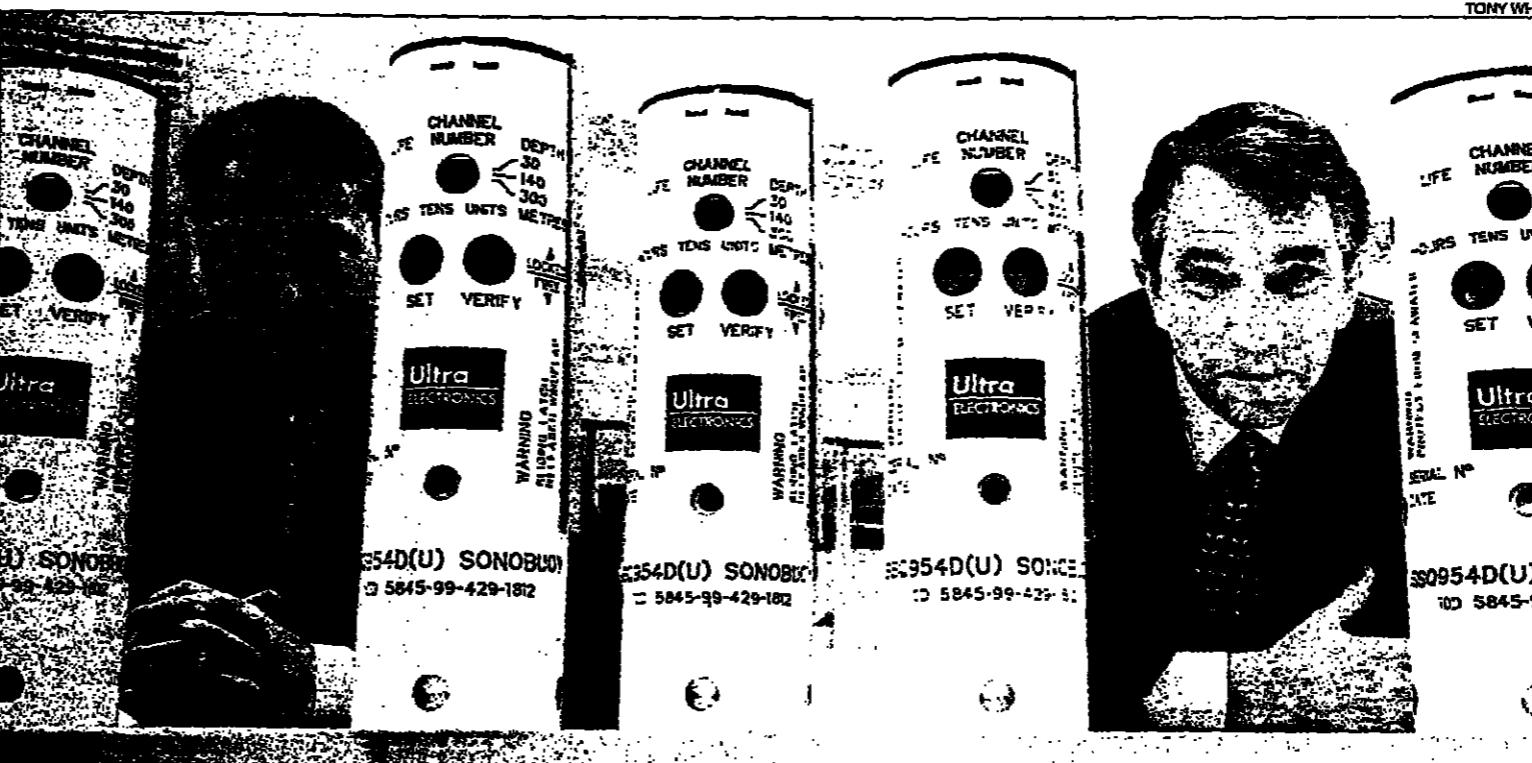
Mike Smith, chief executive, played down plans for an acquisition. He said that Argos could spend up to £1 billion, but is in no hurry and is only interested in a non-food, non-clothing retail business.

An expansion into Holland is set to cost up to £5 million this year and up to £8 million next year. The first five stores are due to open next February. Break-even is not expected until 2001. A decision on whether to take Argos into other countries in Western and Central Europe will be taken in 1999, Mr Smith said.

Back in Britain, no decision has yet been taken on whether to roll out Argos's discount First Stop stores, which the company has been testing for the past two years.

Argos is paying an interim dividend of 6.1p, up from 5.3p, on November 17. Its shares closed down 1½p at 62½p.

Tempus, page 26



Ian Yeoman, finance director of Ultra Electronics, left, and Julian Blogh expect to double sales in the commercial aerospace markets

#### Ultra sees a 26% increase in orders

BY CHRIS AYRES

ULTRA ELECTRONICS, the aerospace and defence technology group that floated in September last year, boosted orders 26 per cent from £174 million to £220 million in the six months to June 30.

It said that its deliveries over the next two years, lifted by the purchase of EMS and Flightline, the US electronics groups, would produce 12 to 15 per cent growth in earnings and dividends. Julian Blogh, chief executive, said: "We've had pretty chunky growth this year, with a healthy order book and continued progress in both divisions."

Ultra's long-term deals include a £100 million contract to produce joystick controls and missile coolers for the Eurofighter 2000 and a £53 million contract to supply submarine-detection equipment for Nimrods.

Although defence budgets have stabilised and orders are strong, Ultra says it expects to double sales over the next three to four years in the commercial aerospace markets.

The company reported a 16.7 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, from £7.4 million to £8.7 million, on turnover of £71.5 million, up 23.7 per cent from £57.8 million.

Earnings per share were up 32.9 per cent from 7.5p to 9.7p.

A dividend of 2.4p (nil) will be paid on October 1.

## Merrydown sheds another director

BY DOMINIC WALSH

MERRYDOWN, the embattled cidermaker, has parted company with Stephen Burke, the finance director, as part of a £1.5 million cost-cutting programme promised in July. His resignation follows the recent departure of Alan Rutherford, sales and marketing director.

Richard Purdey, chairman, told the annual meeting yester-

day that Mr Burke, who has been with Merrydown for three-and-a-half years, was resigning as "part of a planned career development move". After the meeting, a spokesman declined to be drawn on the amount of Mr Burke's compensation. He was on a two-year contract.

His deputy, Michael Dunn-

is, who joined in 1995 from Green Giant, part of Grand Metropolitan's food empire, replaces him. The post of financial controller is scrapped.

Some analysts had expected Mr Purdey to step down in the wake of the collapse of sales of Two Dogs, the alcoholic lemonade manufactured by Merrydown. Although he is staying

for now, insiders believe it is only a matter of time before either Mr Purdey or Paul Millman, managing director, step down. One said: "You've effectively got a managing director and a chairman and chief executive, both full-time, in what is a relatively small company. Something's got to give, though not just yet."

## Pillar buys CW Harris Properties

PILLAR Properties, the property investment and development company, has acquired CW Harris Properties, controlled by Lord Harris of Peckham, the founder and chairman of Carpetright (Eric Reguly writes).

Of the £15.6 million price, £12.4 million is cash with the rest in new Pillar shares at 23½p. Harris Properties has net assets of £25.9 million, including loans of £11.7 million.

The portfolio includes five retail warehouses that generate rents of £3.5 million a year. Tenants include Carpetright, Homebase, Currys and Halfords.

Humphrey Price, Pillar's finance director, said the deal was attractive because the Government is clamping down on the construction of new retail warehouses. The acquisition, he said, makes Pillar the second-largest owner of retail warehouses.

## Hewlett-Packard disappoints

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN CALIFORNIA

HEWLETT-PACKARD, America's second-largest computer manufacturer after IBM, achieved a 45 per cent rise in third-quarter profits but still fell short of stock market expectations.

The company earned \$617 million (£383 million) in the three months to July 31, up from \$425 million in the third quarter of the previous year. But comparable figures for last year were affected by a \$135 million charge from the disposal of the disk-drive business. The increase in underlying profits was just 11 per cent. Revenue rose 15 per cent during the May-July quarter, eating into its profits.

For the first nine months of the year the company's profits have risen 19 per cent to \$2.31 billion from \$1.94 billion. Revenue is up 10 per cent to \$31.1 billion from \$28.3 billion.

testing equipment. But the company spent more to stimulate demand, he said.

Hewlett-Packard, based in Palo Alto, California, makes computers ranging from PCs to powerful business machines for many users. It is also a leading maker of test and measurement equipment.

During the quarter HP enjoyed a 19 per cent gain in orders, led by 25 per cent growth in America. The company was one of several PC manufacturers to cut prices to boost sales. HP's cost of sales also rose 14 per cent during the May-July quarter, eating into its profits.

Herr Thomke, who is highly rated as a company director in Switzerland, has admitted that he underestimated the cost of restructuring Bally. The cost was initially put at about £42 million, but analysts estimate it could rise to as much as £60 million.

The British Bally retail operation is run by a subsidiary of the Swiss company, Bally UK Sales. Many of the shoes found in the shops, which number more than 40, come from Switzerland, with others made in Italy, Spain and the UK. Oerlikon's shares listed in Switzerland, have suffered since the end of June because of speculation about the row between Bally and the main board.

## Midland Interest Rates for Business Customers

New business rates effective from 18 August 1997

|                                 | Gross % | Gross CAR % |
|---------------------------------|---------|-------------|
| MoneyMaster                     |         |             |
| Up to £5,000                    | 3.46    | 3.50        |
| £5,000+                         | 3.76    | 3.80        |
| £25,000+                        | 4.05    | 4.10        |
| £100,000+                       | 4.10    | 4.15        |
| £250,000+                       | 4.34    | 4.40        |
| Premium Business Account        |         |             |
| £5,000+                         | 4.80    | 4.90        |
| £25,000+                        | 5.28    | 5.40        |
| £100,000+                       | 5.51    | 5.65        |
| £250,000+                       | 5.70    | 5.85        |
| Clients Premium Deposit Account |         |             |
| £25,000+                        | 4.70    | 4.75        |
| £100,000+                       | 5.14    | 5.20        |
| Education Account               |         |             |
| Up to £25,000                   | 4.61    | 4.70        |
| £25,000+                        | 5.09    | 5.21        |
| Treasury Account                |         |             |
| Up to £2,000                    | 1.00    | 1.00        |
| £2,000+                         | 2.23    | 2.25        |
| £10,000+                        | 4.17    | 4.25        |

Gross: The rate before the deduction of tax. CAR: Compound Annual Rate, or the true Gross return taking into account the frequency of interest payments.

All rates quoted are per annum.

With effect from the 7th August 1997 Midland Bank's Base Rate has been increased by 0.35% to 7.00% p.a.

Midland Bank plc, 27-32 Poultry, London EC2P 2BL

Member HSBC Group

## Swiss parent to decide on Bally's fate



Bally's future is undecided

THE fate of Bally, one of the best-known quality shoe brands on the high street, was left hanging in the balance yesterday after its management presented plans for a revamp to the Swiss parent company.

Ernst Thomke, the chief executive of Bally, has already publicly fallen out with its owner, Oerlikon-Buehrle Holding, the secretive Swiss weapons-to-fashion conglomerate, over whether Bally should have its own listing, and the size of a much-needed cash injection.

Ernst Thomke said in a Swiss newspaper interview this month that he would not rule out leaving the company if the row was not settled.

The dispute followed a statement by Hans Widmer, chairman of Oerlikon, that conditions for floating Bally as a separate company were not right. He has also said that the restructuring of Bally, which Ernst Thomke was brought in to do, was going more slowly than expected.

Ernst Thomke has also been criticised by Horstene Andra-Buehrle, a Buehrle family shareholder and member of the Oerlikon board, who said: "He should quit talking. What is needed now is hard work."

A spokeswoman for Oerlikon said yesterday that, after the presentation, a decision on what to do about Bally will be taken in the next few weeks.

## STOCK MARKET



CLARE STEWART

## Fears of slide recede as market recovers its nerve

NO HOLIDAYS were cancelled, no fund managers tossed themselves out of tall buildings, and most dealers sat on their money for the day.

Despite expectations of blood on the dealing room floor, the market recovered its nerve after last Friday's sudden dive. There was a nervous start with an early morning fall of 80 points that took the FTSE 100 back below 4,800, but shares clawed back some of their lost ground, helped by support from former futures and gilts.

Following the erratic progress of the Dow Jones industrial average, the FTSE drifted back towards the end of the day to end 30.8 points down at 4,835, though volumes were thin with little more than 500 million shares traded.

With a large number of companies going ex-dividend yesterday it was said dealers, a strong result although the uncertainty was far from over.

BTR, the diversified industrial group, confidently bucked the trend throughout the day, putting on 61p to 211p, and leading the list of FTSE 100 top performing shares. Talk of releasing value through a break-up gave the shares a further lift yesterday after overseas buyers, particularly from America, boosted the shares last week.

Some analysts shied away from the term "break-up", preferring instead to talk of BTR looking to substantial disposals to move the business towards a more focused engineering stock.

BT was the also the focus of attention in the thin market. It was the most heavily traded amongst FTSE 100 stocks, with more than 42 million shares traded. Interest was sparked by SGST, the broker, reiterating its buy recommendation. BT shares ended unchanged at 311p, while Cable & Wireless was also sought after, ending at 5581p, up 11p. Orange rose 11p to 212p.

Banks again saw red, with HSBC Holdings marked down a further 701p to 20,97 to end as the worst performing FTSE 100 stock. NatWest, Lloyds TSB and the Halifax were also in retreat and among the most traded stocks.

In the uncertain stock market waters, utilities proved an attractive haven. Among the best performers were National Power, surging 11p to

451p, with Severn Trent up 101p to 8471p and PowerGen moving up 81p to 721p. ScottishPower, going ex-dividend, missed out on the party and ended off 131p at 415p.

National Grid rose 3p to 259p, after weekend speculation, later denied, that it was to float its Energy telecom business this year.

Pharmaceuticals recovered some of the ground lost in Friday's slide, following the US where drugs groups were sought in early trading. Fa-

voured UK stocks are Glaxo Wellcome, which yesterday was off 5p at £11.951, Zeneca, up 71p at £18.90, and Smithkline Beecham, 71p higher at £10.861. Cortes International, after news of gaining a US patent for its flu vaccine, jumped 10p before sliding back to close at 2161p, up 11p.

Centrica was one of the most heavily traded stocks with nearly ten million shares changing hands, and the shares rising 11p to 891p.

Argos recovered from an

early slide to end 11p lower at 621p, after a mixed response to interim results. Some analysts were trimming back full-year forecasts.

Elsewhere in the retailing sector, Sears put on 21p to 62p, after it was confirmed that the large chunk of shares traded on Friday, had been acquired by PDMF, the fund manager. The acquisition of the 69 million shares lifts PDMF's stake to 20.5 per cent.

Storehouse was also in demand, putting on 7p to 2281p while W H Smith, the focus of break-up speculation over the weekend, added 2p to 581p. Laura Ashley, the fashion and furnishings group, faded 41p to 561p, ahead of this week's trading statement which is likely to warn of first-half losses.

News of the closure of the Ashford mine in Leicestershire sent shares in owner RJB Mining 16p lower at one point. The shares closed at a new low point for the year of 312p, down 5p.

Oil shares slid back, with BP down 13p to 8371p while Burmah Castrol fell back 121p to 101.621p after announcing the £23 million acquisition of a chemicals business and the £15 million disposal of Columbia Cement.

Merrythought, the cider group, ended up 1p at 601p after news of the resignation of Stephen Burke, finance director.

Bid speculation sent shares in Boosey & Hawkes, the musical instruments and publishing group, 271p higher to 5471p.

Penna Holdings put on 121p to 181p after recent share purchases by directors. □ **GILT-EDGED:** Better than expected figures on public sector debt repayment gave the gilt market a lift, increasing demand for issued gilt stock. A stronger opening on US markets further boosted confidence. The September series of the long gilt put £11.32 to £11.52 with the number of contracts completed 43,000.

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FALLS: HK Land, 1901p (-19p); MAID, 199p (+9p); Lavender, 241p (+9p); Hazelock, 296p (+11p); Servis, 325p (-11p); Pson, 364p (+12p); Tibbet & Bain, 555p (-17p); Shield Dial, 502p (+10p); Hendry, 434p (-12p); David Brown, 203p (+12p); Kenwood App, 103p (+14p).

Closing Prices Page 29

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Speculation sent shares in Boosey & Hawkes, the musical instruments and publishing group, 271p higher to 5471p.

The leisure and hotel sector has lagged behind the market, just when it would seem that increased consumer confidence and windfall gains should be

impacting on leisure spending. But says Bruce Jones, analyst at Merrill Lynch, it is holiday operators who have mopped up much of this spending while rising interest rates have kept the lid on prospects for leisure operators.

Ladbrokes ended 31p higher at 2531p while Bass was up 11p to 8391p after Camelot failed in its bid to stop the 49s betting game. Rank ended 11p firmer at 336p. It continued its share buyback programme, buying 500,000 shares at 335p, returning £1.67 million to investors.

Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was unchanged at 102021p, while longs moved ahead, with Treasury 8 per cent 2015 up 111p to 111015p.

□ **NEW YORK:** Blue chips turned lower in late morning trade as bonds and futures shed some of their earlier gains. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 1.86 points to 7,962.80 by midday.

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Carl Mortished looks into the deep-rooted nagging anxiety about Rentokil Initial

**W**hen Sir Clive Thompson delivers Rentokil Initial's half-year financial results tomorrow, his customary confident swagger may not be so obvious.

Although Britain's largest and, arguably, most successful service company is set to again report earnings growth ahead of its self-imposed target of 20 per cent, Rentokil's star has been tarnished. Its stock market rating has slipped and it is perceived to be at a crossroads.

Bumptious Sir Clive has presided over an astonishing period of growth. Over the past ten years earnings per share have grown an average 24 per cent a year and in April 1996 he led the firm in its biggest adventure, acquiring BET, a rival service group, in a contested £2 billion takeover.

City analysts expect the merged Rentokil Initial to report interim profits of up to £200 million courtesy of BET, enough to satisfy fund managers who backed the bid for BET and, more importantly, to avoid embarrassment for Sir Clive.

The nagging anxiety about Rentokil is more deep-rooted. Rentokil Initial has traditionally been a growth stock, but its share rating has failed to recover the ground lost earlier this year when the 1996 profits revealed a sharp slowdown at the heart of the company.

Rentokil retains a loyal band of admirers who believe Sir Clive has found a formula capable of delivering spectacular long-term growth, and there is some evidence to support their enthusiasm. From a company that discovered a new rat poison in 1904, Rentokil has made about 90

## Concern in City over company at crossroads



Thompson: long-term growth

acquisitions over the past decade — small operations that add market share to its cleaning, textile rental, pest control and tropical plant rental businesses. Low-margin new businesses are given the Rentokil treatment: staff training, discipline and customer service. The result is higher prices and a better return on sales and earnings per share growth. The original business delivers shareholders a spectacular 33p in profit for every pound paid by the customer.

The City harbours doubts. At the time of the bid for BET, analysts fretted that growth in core Rentokil operations was slowing and critics accused Sir Clive of desperation in launching a bid for a group with plant hire and distribution interests. But the company's fans say Rentokil is not investing in sunnier industries but buying in growth markets.

Outsourcing basic services is the fashion among companies seeking to focus their investment on core expertise. As firms contract and shed ancillary activities, Rentokil is available to clean offices, change the towels, patrol the premises and remove vermin. Unfortunately, the 1996 profits were not flattering and Rentokil Initial has a history to be sparing with specific information about

its service businesses. The figures tomorrow will not differentiate between the "old Rentokil" operations and the BET businesses.

Analysts will continue to fret if they cannot pinpoint which Rentokil businesses are growing and which mark time. The picture is also complicated by hefty provisions taken against the BET assets. In addition to a reorganisation charge of £16 million, Rentokil Initial's accounts show a fair value adjustment of £260

million against the £310 million book value of BET on acquisition.

Andrew Ripper, analyst at Merrill Lynch, said: "Over the next two years, they will derive more growth from the BET businesses than from Rentokil." Rentokil's 1996 results showed only 9 per cent growth in profits from the "old" businesses — pest control showed almost nil growth and is expected to remain weak this year, textile rental was doing badly on the Continent and the manned security business is plagued by low margins and competition.

All that will not cause Sir Clive to lose too much sleep because BET brings with it potential for uplift. Margins in the acquired businesses average 8.7 per cent, compared with 22 per cent at Rentokil. Even if the boring Initial cleaning operations fail to generate much organic sales growth, efficiency gains and the shedding of low-priced contracts should enable Rentokil to squeeze more profits from new businesses.

But that brings one back to the main conundrum about this slick but decidedly low-tech company. Rentokil operates in businesses that have few barriers to entry. It has acquired some capital intensive businesses with BET, such as plant hire, an area of greater

investment risk in which Rentokil's management skills are as yet untested. Outsourcing is hardly a new concept, but it is the mainstay of growth at a number of go-go companies, including Capita Group, which provides council clerical services.

Large service groups with powerful brands such as Rentokil wield a degree of clout over their customers at present, but there will come a time when big owners and managers such as PPM, the consortium that has acquired the huge DSS property estate, may be able to dictate terms.

Rentokil's success has been due to its ability to achieve dominance in specific areas such as pest control, where provision of a slick service in a market characterised by price inelasticity allows the operator to achieve exceptional margins. However, reliability is not so easy to prove in other service businesses, such as security.

The market for low-tech property-related services is crowded and Rentokil will need to continue to make acquisitions if it is to sustain its target of 20 per cent earnings growth.

Mr Ripper said: "I think he will do it this year, but he will find it tough next year. He will have run out of the benefits of merging BET. The share price is saying that the long-term rate of growth is 10 per cent..."

Sir Clive's mission statement has the proviso that the aim is 20 per cent growth "whilst not detracting from long-term growth prospects". So Rentokil will not dash for growth this year at the expense of the future. However, what the market wants to see is from where the long-term growth will come.

## Britain needs capacity for success

John Grieve Smith says policy to curb inflation may backfire

**C**oncern about the dangers of the economy "overheating" has focused attention on the strength of demand in relation to industrial capacity. Discussion has concentrated, however, on the short-term problem of regulating demand; almost nothing has been said about the longer-term problem of expanding capacity.

Surprisingly little is known about the actual capacity of particular industries or the economy as a whole, or about the effects of differing rates of capacity utilisation on prices. The main sources of information on capacity utilisation are the CBI and British Chambers of Commerce surveys, both of which suggested that capacity utilisation peaked a year or so ago.

In considering how to avoid overheating it is vital to distinguish between two related dangers. One is that the easing of competitive pressures will lead firms to increase prices and profit margins. The other is that a stronger demand for labour will lead to a wage/prize spiral.

High rates are likely to affect investment more than consumption

After nearly two decades of heavy unemployment and a periodically overvalued pound, the economy is in danger of pressing up against capacity limits while there are still significant reserves of labour, albeit there may be shortages of particular skills in particular areas.

There is a pressing need to encourage the expansion of capacity in the widest sense: that it is not simply plant capacity, the dominant factor in industries such as steel or chemicals, but the total managerial and operational strength of the firm.

The danger is that excessively strict policies to curb inflation may have adverse effects on industrial capacity. This, ironically, will make us more susceptible to inflation in the long run in an upturn (as happened in the 1980s) and make it harder to reduce unemployment. Exclusive reliance on monetary policy accentuates this danger, both because high interest rates are likely to affect investment more than consumption, and also because of their effect on the exchange rate. It is not just the present high level of sterling that is so damaging

part to play. Industry also needs to be assured that the exchange rate will be at competitive levels.

There is also a need to create financial structures in which risk-taking becomes more acceptable, by making the penalties for any temporary reduction in profits less severe. This is particularly important for smaller firms where their dependence on bank loans, rather than equity finance, puts many out of business in a recession, which they would otherwise be able to weather. Larger firms have better access to equity finance, but tend to suffer from short-term pressures to maintain dividends that reduce the distinction between debt and risk finance. The Government has emphasised the need to encourage investment, but has so far failed to identify the particular problems of encouraging investment in new capacity, which is essential to strengthen the economy and reduce unemployment.

The author is a Fellow of Robinson College, Cambridge, and wrote Full Employment: A Pledge Betrayed.

## King Coal's crown is tarnished as rival fuels gain upper hand

The reign of Richard Budge faces growing difficulties, according to Mark Court



Richard Budge's empire is under threat from the growth of gas-fired power stations and cheap coal imports

**R**ichard Budge took the crown of King Coal at the end of 1994 when his company, RJB Mining, paid £915 million to clinch the majority of English pits sold during coal privatisation. He seized the crown with relish, never missing an opportunity to tell people that he was the saviour of Britain's coal industry.

But the announcement yesterday of another pit closure suggests that his title to the throne is far from secure. The closure of Ashtonby in Leicestershire comes just a year after Point of Ayr colliery was shut, and a question mark hangs over several other pits.

Budge's role to reign over Britain's coalfields is marked by controversy. RJB Mining was an open-cast mining operation when Budge launched his bid for most of the English pits. RJB had been bought for £106 million in 1992 as a buyout from AF Budge, the construction company run by Richard's brother, Tony.

Less than a year later AF Budge crashed with debts of more than £100 million, prompting an investigation by the Department of Trade and Industry.

While Richard Budge was bidding for the English pits, the investigation came to a head. Tony, his wife Janet and Michael Yates, the finance director, were disqualified as directors, but the case against Richard,

who was also a director of AF Budge, was dropped.

Richard Budge had already been nominated preferred bidder for most English pits with a bid of about £900 million. He negotiated the figure down to £815 million and paid £700 million in cash with £115 million in deferred terms. The deal was attacked by the National Audit Office, other bidders having been told there would be no defered payments.

At first Budge's critics said that he had paid too much for the English pits, but he got off to a flying start. As one mining expert recalls: "He had the most amazing piece of luck. He sold about five million tonnes of coal from stock at the full contract price for which he had paid very little because three nuclear power stations broke down within five months of

RJB starting." After returning spectacular profits in the first year, critics argued that Budge had not paid enough for the English pits.

But the big problem that the company faces is the renegotiation of its long-term supply contracts with National Power and PowerGen. Currently these are large, profitable contracts on a take-or-pay basis, but they run out next March when the power generators will seek smaller contracts at lower prices related to the markets.

The generators have told Budge they want coal at 110p a gigajoule, compared with the current 143p a gigajoule. RJB has struggled to bring its costs down since privatisation and is now producing coal at about 117p a gigajoule, which, even without profit, far exceeds the price that the generators are

looking for. As a result RJB faces stiff competition from overseas, where coal can be obtained for 110p a gigajoule.

A coal analyst said: "If the market price applies, which is what the generators want, then RJB's profits will disappear."

"Although reports are focusing on cheap coal imports, the fact is that British coal is expensive. Foreign companies are simply providing coal at the world market price."

During the past few months Budge has suggested the opening of new pits and even a move into power generation by building a clean coal power station in an effort to build positive sentiment around his company.

But analysts believe that RJB will be forced to close further pits in an effort to

supply coal at prices that generators will be prepared to

accept. Charles Kerton, analyst at Paribas, the broker, said: "Coal is a declining industry and what RJB needs to do is to recognise it is a declining industry and get as much cash out as possible."

"RJB can pull themselves back to around 10 collieries which they could operate with costs below 115p a gigajoule."

There's certainly no way RJB can build a brand new coal mine in this country and make money out of it."

Paribas forecasts full-year pre-tax profits at RJB of £50 million, at the bottom end of expectations, but believes that next month's interim will be strong. Mr Kerton said: "This year will be a very good, very profitable year for RJB. The difficulty is next year when earnings will fall off a cliff."

Environmental pressures are

## IMPULSE PURCHASE?

island company n. 1 companion of Robinson Crusoe, 2 a desert island disc 3 an overseas company incorporated in the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.

concert parties n. 1 bonfire which typically involves a large number of musicians 2 group of persons acting in concert to acquire a company's shares.

close company n. 1 organisation which lacks either windows or air-conditioning 2 a company which for the purposes of corporation tax is considered to be under the control of five or fewer participants.

pyramid selling n. 1 time-share operation run by ancient Egyptians (usu. 1 week for 5,000 years) 2 a system of selling goods in which agency rights are sold on to an increasing number of distributors.

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## Hardern target

AS ANOTHER building society vows to spurn the speculators, I wonder what has happened to dear old Michael Hardern, the freelance butler whose tilt at the Nationwide was about as solidly constructed as his straw hat.

Overhearing a conversation between two tamed gentlemen, who claim to be confidantes of Hardern, it appears that the king of the carpetbaggers is holidaying in Cornwall and planning his next venture. This is to be an autumnal attempt to

persuade the Co-operative Wholesale Society that it would be better in the public domain than as a co-operative. I would like to suggest this is a triumph of hope over experience, but I have two little words to say to Hardern — Andrew Regan.

### Change of brew

TALKING ABOUT Cornwall, brewing devotees who find the goings on at Merrydown too tame for them should head to the Redruth Brewery, where the Chinese takeover of Hong Kong is being rerun. The brewery was rescued from receivership a couple of years ago by Dransfield Food and Beverage, a company known to the residents of Kowloon for its fine beers and snacks.

All had been going swimmingly, with Redruth enjoying a resurgence thanks to new brews such as Young Chinese Beer, the US ale Indian Head and the intriguingly named Scream'n'Beaver, which is a strong lager aimed at the youth market, apparently. But last week Alex Tse, the Hong Kong-based chief executive, sacked Richard Sommerfield, the general manager, and Steve Lean, head brewer, resigned in protest.

Tse is keeping mum about the cause of the row, but he is currently trying to find a new boss to run



Redruth so that he can return to Hong Kong. "With the dedication of our staff I believe we can capture the immense potential of the beverage consumption market," Tse says. I suppose this is not the time to remind him that Redruth has just launched a real ale called "Cornish Rebellion".

### If only...

TO KENSINGTON High Street where tomorrow a Yellow Robin Restaurant from the TV programme *Only Fools and Horses* will trundle up to the Magnet showroom with trade unionists leading the strike at the troubled kitchen maker. According to the GMB and the T&G, 350 skilled cabinet makers were fired by Magnet a year ago and the subsequent strike has cost the group £7 million — 100 times what it would have been to settle it. Phil Davies, of the GMB, will



"Up or down, Sir? I wouldn't really like to hazard a guess..."

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST LTD



## Chancery Division

**Tax avoidance transfers fail in aim**

**McNiven (Inspector of Taxes) v Westmoreland Investments Ltd**

Before Mr Justice Carnwath

Judgment July 24

Pre-ordained circular transfers of money between an investment company and a pension scheme that owned the company, by way of loans and replacement loans that were made for no commercial purpose apart from the avoidance of liability to tax fell within the anti-avoidance principles laid down by the House of Lords in *Ramsey (W.T.) Ltd v IRC* [1982] AC 300.

The payments by the investment company to the pension scheme were not payments of interest for the purposes of section 338 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 (allowance of charges on income) and were thus not available for set-off against the company's profits.

Mr Justice Carnwath so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division allowing an appeal by the Crown of the decision of the specialist commissioners that had allowed an appeal by Westmoreland Investments Ltd against the refusal of its tax inspector to allow deductions in respect of payments of interest in computing its total profits for accounting periods from 1987 to 1990.

The shares in the company were held by the Electricity Supply Pension Scheme, an exempt approved scheme for tax purposes. In the 1970s the company had suf-

fered large losses and in 1980 a decision was taken to wind down its activities and many of its properties were sold.

During the 1980s loans were made by the scheme to the company, on which arrears of interest of some £42 million accrued. In 1988 the scheme lent about £20 million to the company some of which was repaid to the scheme as interest.

By 1989 the company held no properties but in March 1990 purchased one for £1.3 million. In October 1989 and January 1990 it borrowed further amounts of £70 million and £44 million from the scheme, much of which was used to pay the balance of the arrears of accrued interest. In December 1990 the company was sold.

Corporation tax assessments were made against the company for periods from 1987 and 1992 on the basis that the payments of interest made by the company were not available for set-off.

Section 338 of the 1988 Act provides:

"(1) ... in computing the corporation tax chargeable for any accounting period of a company any charges on income paid by the company in the accounting period, so far as paid out of the company's profits brought into charge to corporation tax shall be allowed to the extent of the amount of such deduction against the total profits..."

By section 338(3)(a) "charges on income" included payments of yearly interest.

Mr Christopher McCall, QC, for the Crown; Mr David Milne, QC,

and Mr Adrian Shipwright for the company.

MR JUSTICE CARNWATH said that an initial point taken by the Crown was that the company during 1989 and 1990 was not an investment company, having disposed of its property investments and retained nothing except a small amount of investments of money on deposit.

The special commissioners rejected that submission holding that the company never fell out of the section 130 definition of "investment company".

They were correct, being entitled to look at the activities of the company over a longer period than the three years under review and to conclude that there had been no definite change in the type of its business.

Next, the Crown relied on the anti-avoidance cases beginning with *Ramsey* and leading most recently to *IRC v McCullion* [The Times June 20, 1997; [1997] 1 WLR 991].

Mr McCall sought to apply that approach to the construction of the word "payment" in section 338(3)(a) of the Act, with reference to what was asserted to be payments of interest by the company. He said there were no such payments within the meaning of the Act since the purported payments were effected by an artificial circulation of money designed purely for the purposes of tax advantage.

Mr McCall was clearly right. The case was a relatively straightforward application of the *Ramsey* principle. The arrangements

whereby the loans made in the early 1980s were replaced by new loans were a pre-ordained series of transactions. They did have real business consequences in that the new loans were on different terms as to repayment from the old loans.

But what mattered was that the arrangements for transfer of funds from the scheme to the company and back again to the scheme were steps inserted for no commercial purposes apart from the avoidance of liability to tax, that is the conversion of a *notional interest obligation*, which had no tax significance, into one which could be used to reduce future tax liabilities. Those circular transactions had therefore to be disregarded.

The result of that process was, that although the terms of the loans had changed, the payments were to be treated for tax purposes as never having happened. Mr Milne, relying on *Cazier v MacDonald* [1990] 1 QB 566, *Castors v Ensign Commissioners v Ferith Construction Ltd* [1990] 1 QB 905, *Ensign Tankers (Leasing) Ltd v Stokes* [1992] 1 AC 655 and *Pigott v Staines Investments Ltd* [1995] STC 114) argued that the Crown was wrong to focus on the payment without regard to the underlying obligation. He said that where a company made a payment to discharge a debt which it undoubtedly owed, it was impossible to say that the payment had no business purpose.

Finally, Mr Milne said, that if one had regard, as Lord Steyn suggested in *McCullion*, to ordinary principles of purposive construction, the Crown's interpretation read far more into the word "payment" than the draftsmen intended.

The commissioners rejected the Crown's argument based on *Ramsey*, holding that all the loans were real loans used by the company for real purposes and that there was a "payment" of interest in the ordinary sense of the words.

However, the commissioners failed to address the critical issue, namely whether the circular payments were inserted in the arrangement for any other reason than tax.

Even if one treated the arrangement as a restructuring of the loans, it did not require money to be transferred from one account to the other and back again. Nor did the finding that those payments were "real", whatever that means, affect the matter.

The payments of interest in 1988 to 1990 which were made wholly out of money borrowed from the scheme, were not payments of interest for the purposes of section 338 and the commissioners were wrong to allow them as charges on income.

Solicitors: Meaby & Co, Camberwell; Herbert Smith.

The appellant referred to part

## Law Report August 19 1997

THE TIMES TUESDAY AUGUST 19 1997

## Court of Appeal

**Limit to security for costs orders**

**Abraham and Another v Thompson and Others**

Before Lord Justice Miller and Lord Justice Potter

Judgment July 24

The court had no inherent jurisdiction to order a plaintiff to give security for costs outside the complete regime provided in Order 23 of the Rules of the Supreme Court and section 726 of the Companies Act 1985 in respect of limited companies unless a situation amounting to an abuse of process existed.

The right of a plaintiff to bring a properly pleaded and constituted action in good faith took precedence over the interest of a defendant who might be unable to recover costs against an impetuous plaintiff. It was preferable that a successful defendant should suffer the injustice of irrecoverable costs than that a plaintiff with a genuine claim should be prevented from pursuing it.

Where a defendant suspected that a plaintiff was being funded by a third party and that any costs order made against the plaintiff at trial might be difficult to enforce, the proper course was to allow the action to proceed to trial then if the litigating party were to lose an order for costs would be difficult to enforce against the maintainer, then a stay could be imposed. His Lordship disagreed with that.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing an appeal by the plain-

tiffs against an order of Mr Justice Lloyd (*The Times* May 15, 1997) that the first plaintiff, Roger Adrian Abraham, disclosed to the fifth and sixth defendants, Domingos Antonio Martins Da Silva and Jose Humberto Mendoza De Sousa, whether and if so what third parties were funding his order.

Mr Stanley Burton, QC, and Mr Kenneth MacLean, for the appellants; Mr Michael Bloch and Miss Camilla Birmingham for the respondents.

MR JUSTICE POTTER reviewed the authorities and said that the stay was sought on the basis of the dicta of Lord Justice Kennedy in *Condliffe v Hislop* [1996] 1 WLR 753 that if the circumstances suggested that if the litigating party were to lose an order for costs would be difficult to enforce against the maintainer, then a stay could be imposed. His Lordship disagreed with that.

Imposition of a requirement that security for costs be provided subject to the sanction of a stay was a plain fetter upon the exercise of such right of access. That was a principle underlying and recognised by Order 23 which excluded from its regime for security any individual not within the categories specifically provided for.

In those circumstances, when the defendant is a properly constituted and pleaded action brought bona fide, applied for a stay unless security for his costs was provided, for the court to grant a stay under its inherent jurisdiction was in principle to act in opposition, rather than as a supplement, to the provisions and underlying policy of the rules.

There were two conflicting considerations involved in such a case. One was the right of an individual plaintiff freely to pursue a bona fide action lawfully brought. The other was the interest which the defendant had in being protected as to his costs if he were unsuccessful.

The former had hitherto been rightly recognised as paramount, subject to such protection from its consequences as provided by (a) the legislature or rule-making authority to the defendant by way of enforcement or provision for security and (b) the court's inherent jurisdiction to prevent abuse of its process. In this case the defendant sought to achieve under (b) a wider basis of protection than it had hitherto been prepared to grant.

Any such extension should be by an addition to the rules, not in the guise of a condition attached to an application for a stay where the abuse of process was alleged to be demonstrated. The jurisdiction to grant a stay in advance of a determination under section 5(1) of the 1985 Act should be limited to cases where it could clearly be demonstrated that a situation amounting to abuse of process existed.

Lord Justice Miller delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Clifford Chance, D.F. Freeman.

**Bench should show costs bill to other side**

**Hutber v Gabriele**

Before Lord Justice Henry and Mr Justice Gage

Judgment July 31

In normal circumstances a magistrate making an order for costs should show the bill of costs to the other party.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when dismissing an appeal by way of case stated by Mr Carl Hutber against a decision of Miss Audrey Jennings, West London stipendiary magistrate, on October 15 and November 6, 1996 dismissing his summons against Mr Charles Gabriele for common assault and making an order for costs against him.

Mr Dominic Bell, for Mr Hutber; Miss Miranda Moore for Mr Gabriele.

MR JUSTICE GAGE said after the magistrate dismissed the summons she announced she would make an order for costs against the

appellant. The respondent handed the magistrate a computer printout sheet of his solicitor's costs. The magistrate did not show the printout to the appellant who did not request sight of it.

The printout showed solicitor's costs of £23,000. The magistrate decided to quantify costs immediately as there was no provision to have costs taxed under section 19 of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985.

The magistrate heard the appellant's objections to any award of costs but made an order of costs of £10,000.

The appellant submitted that he should have been given an opportunity to examine and comment on the printout. The respondent submitted that he had the opportunity to request sight of it but had not availed himself of the opportunity.

The appellant referred to part

VII of *Practice Note* [1991] 2 All ER 924 and paragraph 3 of Costs in Criminal Cases (General) Regulations (SI 1988 No 1335) which stated, inter alia, that magistrates must hear representations from the parties prior to making an order for costs.

However, the fact of the matter was the appellant had not asked to see the computer printout. In the normal course of events a magistrate should of his or her own motion take steps to show a bill of costs to the other side.

However, that did not take away the responsibility of a magistrate to request sight of a bill of costs if the magistrate did not ask whether they wished to see it.

Having considered the circumstances, his Lordship held the cost order was reasonable.

Lord Justice Henry agreed.

Solicitors: Meaby & Co, Camberwell; Herbert Smith.

The appellant referred to part

Regina v Aylesbury Vale District Council and Another. Ex parte Chapman and Others

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Pill and Lord Justice Waller

Judgment July 31

The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 did not impose any general duty on a local planning authority to give reasons for granting an application for planning permission and it made no difference if an applicant had been refused a planning permission subject to conditions.

The applicants' submissions had to be considered in the context of a statutory framework under which an applicant for planning permission had a statutory right of appeal against the refusal to grant planning permission; see section 78 of the 1990 Act.

There was no equivalent statutory right in a person aggrieved by the grant of a planning permission to appeal against the grant.

Further a local planning authority was required to give reasons for refusing an application or imposing conditions. There was no equivalent statutory duty to give reasons for a grant of planning permission.

LORD JUSTICE PILL said that

was a duty to give reasons for the grant of permission when, earlier, an identical application had been refused.

It was, he said, important that those concerned should know the reason for the change of mind.

He further submitted that it was important for public confidence.

The obligation to give reasons focused the minds of the decision-makers. There was, he said, a developing common law duty to give reasons for administrative decisions.

He relied on the need for consistency in administrative decisions.

It was a possibility that there could be a situation in which an obligation to give reasons for a grant of permission arose. But the present decision could not be impeached for lack of reasons.

Although the answer might not have been easy, the question posed for the consideration of the committee was clear. There had been a single issue and its planning advisers had been consistent in making a judgment in favour of the grant of permission.

There was no evidence of any lack of good faith on the part of the members or of their taking irrelevant considerations into account.

There was a good and obvious reason for the second decision and no obligation to spell it out arose by reason of the previous refusal.

Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Waller agreed.

Solicitors: Kingsford Stacey; Mrs Joanna E. Swift, Aylesbury.

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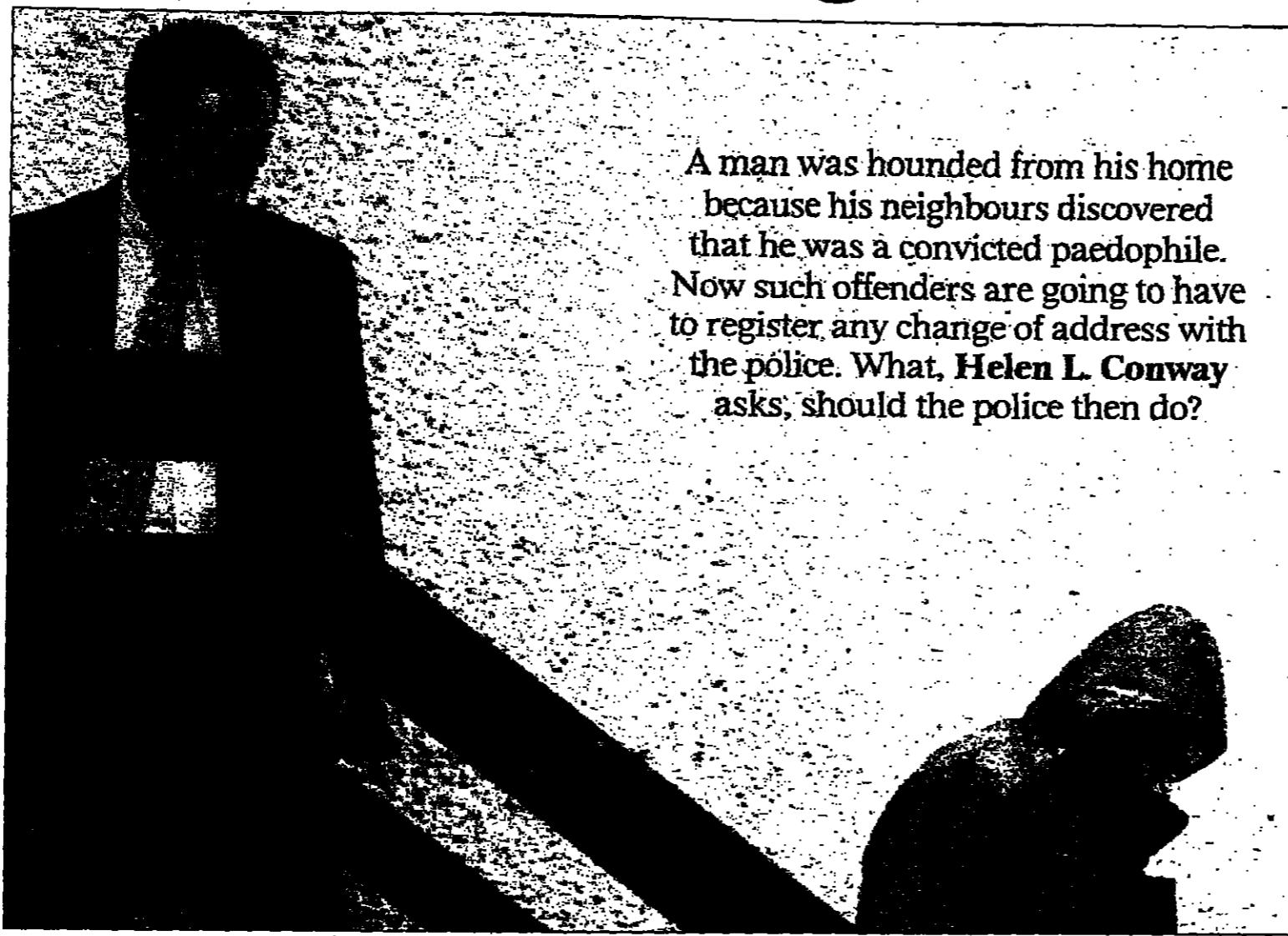
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## LAW

# Trial by neighbour



Christie, right, is escorted to safety from his hostel after coming under pressure from concerned local people

Calls are increasingly being made for the public to be given more information about the whereabouts of paedophiles. Home Office statistics published in June indicate that there are now 110,000 convicted child molesters in England and Wales. The new Sex Offenders Act, to come into force on September 1, will require such offenders to register any change of address with the police. Should that information be passed on?

Recently, two paedophiles brought a case against North Wales Police claiming that the disclosure of their addresses was an infringement of their privacy. Despite the paedophiles' having been driven out of several homes since their release from prison, the Lord Chief Justice confirmed that the police action had been lawful.

New Home Office guidelines confirm, however, that the police are not required to warn people of the presence of known sex offenders; it is a matter for their discretion. Disclosure should be "exceptions to general policy of confidentiality".

A balancing act must be performed in each case. Does the need to protect innocent children from a genre of offenders with a notoriously high recidivism rate justify release of personal information about those criminals? It may be

that, on balance, the public's safety outweighs the civil rights of individuals who have caused harm in the past. Still, one question remains: what good will disclosure do?

Certainly, it may equate parents to be vigilant with their children. But is that really an addition to the duties of responsible parents who, already, need to be aware of the potential risk from as yet undetected paedophiles? So what else can a community do with the information?

A mother connected with a community group recently applied for a prohibited steps order to banish a paedophile from the Huyton area near Liverpool. Reporting restrictions were placed on the outcome of that case, and there are no other reported cases on the issue. The theoretical power to make such an order does, however, exist.

In the recent case of *Burris v Azadani*, it was accepted that the courts have powers to make injunctive orders with an exclusion-zone clause. In that case, a woman and her child were harassed by a man whose advances she had rejected. The court ordered that he should not come within 250 yards of her house.

Both the High Court and the lower county courts have an inherent jurisdiction to protect children from harm irrespective of the proceedings

### Indefinite sentences for child abuse may be the solution

caused; general distress and fear would suffice.

An injunction can, where appropriate, be granted before a tort is committed. Because parental responsibility gives consequential rights and duties over a child, injunctions may prevent interference with the exercise of those duties. Applications under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 for contact, residence or prohibited steps orders may thus be the "door" to an injunction.

Whatever the action, the conditions for an injunction must be satisfied. Where there

is a clear connection between abuser and child, remedies — either public or private — under Part IV of the Family Law Act 1996 (to be implemented in October) would be more easily available.

If child and respondent are not "associated persons", the facts of the case would have to show a sufficient link to persuade the court to exercise its powers.

In *Burris v Azadani*, the Master of the Rolls stated that "[the defendant's liberty] must be respected up to the point at which it infringes or threatens to infringe the rights of the plaintiff." A general threat to a community as a whole would probably not suffice. Other solutions are similarly limited.

Given that mediation is consensual and an alternative to traditional court-based methods, it is ironic that the chances

of increased take-up probably hang upon "official" recognition, particularly by the courts, and an element of coercion. This was also the case in other jurisdictions. In both Australia and the United States, litigants' and lawyers' experience of mediation has been increased by "settlement weeks", in which judges and senior lawyers have acted as mediators to clear backlog of court cases.

Australian and American lawyers are far more likely to have had experience of ADR than their British counterparts. What are the obstacles to the wider take-up here?

In 1994, the Bristol Law Society set up a mediation scheme, with services provided by the two big independent suppliers, CEDR and the ADR group. Because the Court Service and Legal Aid Board declined to join the project,

mediation could be offered outside the courts only for cases in which neither side was receiving legal aid. Crippled from the start, it is not surprising that the scheme received only 24 referrals by the end of its first year.

### Not all practitioners are fat cats. Patrick Stevens defends slimline moggies

### Pity the legal aid lawyer

assessment purposes. She is within the income limits and legal aid is granted, subject to her paying a contribution.

The fundamental difference between private and legal aid work now becomes apparent. The husband is having to pay privately and wants to get matters settled as quickly as possible. The legal aid solicitor is being paid a low hourly rate on matrimonial work and has to work as many hours as possible to stay in business. He is not a fat cat lawyer but a thin and very streetwise moggy.

The first step is to demand that the husband guarantees he will not dispose of his car, worth £3,000. He does not respond. The wife's legal aid is extended for her to get an ex parte injunction to restrain him from selling the car. The husband is becoming

angry. He threatens to thump his wife if she does not leave him alone, so she gets an emergency injunction to restrain him. This is also obtained ex parte and, to avoid the cost of a contested hearing, the husband agrees later to give an undertaking to the court. With a plethora of faxes and affidavits, the stick legal aid practitioner will already have run up a bill of £1,000.

The best tactic is to claim that the husband is concealing assets, working on the side and that his accounts are untrue. This allegation is used to justify picking through every detail of the husband's finances. Any discrepancies will be seized on with glee and used to fuel further investigations, all of which involve letters, faxes, questionnaires, analysis of accounts and bank statements and endless hours of chargeable work.

If the Legal Aid Board queries the amount of work being done for so little potential benefit, the opinion of counsel, dependent on the solicitor for work, is sought. But the board rarely interferes with this as how the work is done and it knows no different. Of course, only a lunatic would fund such nonsense privately, but fortunately for those employed, common sense is rarely seen in matrimonial legal aid work.

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## Bid the barbarians goodbye — mediate

The Government is pausing for breath before implementing Lord Woolf's reforms of civil justice. The former Treasury mandarin Sir Peter Middleton is reviewing Woolf and is due to report to the Lord Chancellor by the end of next month.

The review is a fresh chance for those who wish to see more pressure put on lawyers to use alternative methods of resolving disputes (ADR). Draft rules of court, due before the general election, had been expected to sidestep one of the most controversial recommendations made by Lord Woolf in his July 1996 report — costs penalties for those who refuse unreasonably a proposal by the court that ADR should be attempted or [who] act uncooperatively in the course of ADR".

The doubters argue that there will be problems of definition and of evidence if a litigant tries to establish such behaviour by an opponent.

Costs rules tend to be an arcane specialism.

But this debate is of real importance. Is ADR doomed forever to stand at the door of the courts and wait? Or will the delay occasioned by the Middleton review actually further Lord Woolf's aim? For years mediation has been the coming conqueror; it would, it was believed, sweep away barbarian litigators and usher in more civilised ways.

Although a few thousand cases have been mediated by the two main ADR groups since 1990, both claiming success rates of more than 90 per cent, they represent tiny percentage of total litigation.

Given that mediation is consensual and an alternative to traditional court-based methods, it is ironic that the chances

of increased take-up probably hang upon "official" recognition, particularly by the courts, and an element of coercion. This was also the case in other jurisdictions. In both Australia and the United States, litigants' and lawyers' experience of mediation has been increased by "settlement weeks", in which judges and senior lawyers have acted as mediators to clear backlog of court cases.

We need to know whether ADR is more likely to catch on in focused areas. And would the availability of legal aid make a difference to take-up? While there has been a fairly low take-up of a general pilot scheme at the Central London County Court, the other two current court-based schemes are in specialist areas. There is a scheme in the Patients County Court and practitioners in the Commercial Court found themselves obliged to confront ADR by a practice direction

issued in June 1996. ADR orders are now apparently being made in about 30 per cent of cases. The procedures adopted in the Commercial Court were recommended by a working party of court users — no doubt an additional reason for their acceptability.

In another well-defined field, family cases, ADR has given the Legal Aid Board authority to fund mediations. A pilot scheme, starting later this year, will be properly researched. Similar comprehensive research is needed in specialist areas of civil litigation. We need to understand better the obstacles to a greater use of ADR. If the present election-caused delay to the implementation of Woolf results in research designed to establish how costs incentives and penalties might increase the use of ADR, without infringing the access of individuals to the courts, it will have been worth it.

The author is head of professional services at Irwin Mitchell and a consultant to the University of Sheffield's Department of Law.



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## Bad news travels fast out in cyberspace

**W**hat is believed to be the biggest action in the UK arising out of defamation by e-mail was settled last month, when Norwich Union publicly apologised in the High Court to a rival private health insurer, Western Provident Association, and agreed to pay Western Provident £450,000 in damages and costs.

The case began when it was discovered that Norwich Union was circulating damaging and untrue rumours on its internal electronic-message system to the effect that Western Provident was in financial difficulties. Western Pro- vident sued for libel and slander.

The ephemeral nature of e-mail messages and the threat of the delete button created an obvious evidential problem for Western Provident. Its lawyers therefore decided to take the relatively unusual step of asking the court, before service of the writ, for an order that the offending e-mails should be preserved and hard copies handed over. James Price QC, argued that the evanescent nature of e-mail communication merited such a radical step. The court agreed. In a novel development, Mr Justice Mance made what is believed to be the first such order. Norwich Union was required to preserve all the relevant e-mail messages and to deliver hard copies to Western Provident's solicitors.

One lesson to be drawn from the case is that the English courts recognise the unique potential for damage of defamation by e-mail, and are willing to sanction draconian measures where appropriate.

The risks for a company with large numbers of employees who are hooked up to the Internet or to an in-house e-mail system are plain. The e-mail provides employees with a dangerously spontaneous

means of communication. Psychologically, it seems, most people regard an e-mail message as more akin to the spoken than the written word. They tend to give rather less thought to the content of e-mail than they might to a more formal typed memorandum or letter.

An internal system, with the electronic wizardry providing automatic forwarding and copying, a message or announcement can reach hundreds of employees in an instant. And, as the Western Prov- ident case shows, the courts are then willing to step in to preserve the evidence.

An employer may be able to invoke vicarious liability for the actions of its staff by, for example, demonstrating that the employee was acting outside the scope of his employment in putting a libellous e-mail on the system. But that does not get the employer off the hook under defamation law, because the "publisher", as well as the author, is liable. It would be difficult for a company that provided its employees with computers and a link to the Net to argue that it was not a "publisher".

Relief may be at hand for companies in such a position under the new Defamation Act 1996, which provides a defence of innocent dissemination. However, the relevant section of the Act is not clearly drafted. Most practitioners are still scratching their heads over its legal effect, which has not yet been tested in court.

Moreover, liability does not stop at Calais. The aggrieved party may sue in any jurisdiction where the libel is "published", which is likely to mean any country from which the material may be accessed (regardless of where it was initially put on the Net). Few companies would, for example, relish the prospect of being sued in the

United States, with its dollar-hungry juries.

Another lesson to be drawn from the Western Provident case is that if companies are to protect their business reputation from scurrilous and defamatory material in cyberspace, they must act decisively and swiftly, partly because of the perishable nature of the evidence and because of the speed at which bad

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MICHAEL GARDNER

• The author is a litigation partner at Morgan Bruce

news travels by a computer network.

Corporate plaintiffs are generally at a disadvantage when bringing an action for libel. The legal theory is that a company has no feelings that can be hurt and, therefore, such a plaintiff is entitled to only modest damages.

The commercial reality, of course, is rather different. The

speed and potential audience of electronic communication mean that, if it is not dealt with at once, defamation by e-mail can cause huge damage to the business reputation of a company – in a very short space of time.

• The author is a solicitor and member of the media litigation group at Theodor Goddard, which acted for Western Provident

### E-MAILS, A GROWTH AREA FOR DEFAMATION ACTIONS

■ THERE was an earlier case than that involving Norwich Union – PC Eggleton v Asda in 1995. Defamation cases are often unusual, but this was no exception. Eggleton had made a complaint about some faulty goods. By chance, he ascertained that an e-mail had been broadcast through Asda's stores network accusing him of what amounted to fraud. His libel action was based on publication within the store's group, and the action was subsequently compromised.

Whatever the merits of that case, any defamatory material about a serving police officer would plainly have serious implications for him.

E-mail defamation – on the Internet or elsewhere – will become increasingly common, not least because the creators of such defamatory material may labour under the misapprehension that they or their company are immune from a libel action through "confidentiality". There are now the first signs, for example,

sexual harassment by e-mail, often started by

hungry juries.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY AUGUST 19 1997

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## ALASTAIR THOMPSON &amp; PARTNERS

announces that it will cease practicing with effect from 31st August 1997. The partners will be joining the following firms respectively with effect from 1st September 1997:

**Alastair Simpson - Thomson Snell & Passmore**  
**David Hartfield - Hartfields**  
**Alastair Cornforth - Hextall Erskine**  
**Michael Lent - Hammond Suddards**  
**Martin Butterworth - Davies Arnold & Cooper**  
**Jonathan Angell - Hartfields**

Any enquiries after 1st September should be addressed to the partner who has conduct of the case at their new firm. Otherwise correspondence addressed to Alastair Thomson & Partners at the current address of Dragon Court, 27/29 Macklin Street, London WC2B 5LX will be re-directed to the relevant partner.

The partners thank the many clients and professional colleagues who have wished them well in their respective new ventures.



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TO £50,000 Our client is the legal and business affairs department of a large UK media organisation. Due to the continued success and expansion of their business they seek a lawyer to take responsibility for co-production and international licensing. Gender opportunity to work closely with the business in an interesting and varied role. They seek 3-4 year non-continuous media experience. (Ref:2099)

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## MEDIA

TO £50,000 Our client is the legal and business affairs department of a large UK media organisation. Due to the continued success and expansion of their business they seek a lawyer to take responsibility for co-production and international licensing. Gender opportunity to work closely with the business in an interesting and varied role. They seek 3-4 year non-continuous media experience. (Ref:2104)

## GENERAL

TO £50,000 For further information on these, and the many other vacancies registered with us, please contact Yvonne Phillips or Andrew Golding (both qualified lawyers) on 0171-523 3838 (0171-376 4968 evenings/weekends). For in-house vacancies please contact Lisa Hickey on 0171-523 3838 (0171-642 5237 evenings/weekends) or write to us at ZMB, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2P 5PN. Confidential fax: 0171-523 3839. E-mail: [yvonne@zmb.co.uk](mailto:yvonne@zmb.co.uk) Web site: <http://www.zmb.co.uk>



## CORRECTION NOTARIES PUBLIC

## COURT OF FACULTIES EXAMINATION JANUARY 1998

The next examination for those seeking appointment as a Notary Public in England and Wales is to be held in London on 5th January 1998.

Applicants who are solicitors are required to take part IV of the examination consisting of papers on "Notarial Practice" and "Bills of Exchange".

Full details of the syllabus, suggested reading list and also the method of appointment are available (by postal application only) from:

The Registrar, The Court of Faculties, 1 The Sanctuary, Westminster, London SW1P 3JT, DX 230 VICTORIA

Telephone 0181 338 2005 Fax 0181 338 2044

For further information contact 0181 338 2044

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## RUGBY UNION

# Widnes serve injunction to block Devereux

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

**S**ALE were served yesterday with an injunction by Widnes Vikings Rugby League club, which seeks to prevent them from playing John Devereux, the dual-code Wales international centre, who they signed as a free agent but who Widnes insist is under-contract with them until 1999.

Devereux will be absent from Sale's opening match in the Allied Dunbar Premiership on Sunday, not because of instructions by the club's lawyers, but because of a broken nose. He will miss at least the first two weeks of the new season.

Without satisfactory compensation, Widnes are unlikely to drop their action. Devereux, 31, was restricted by injury to only a handful of appearances for Sale last season. He joined on a short-term contract and returned to Widnes for the rugby league season. A broken ankle has meant that he has not played since switching back. Devereux has since sought a full-time return to union, eight years after he left Bridgend for Widnes.

"Sale have indicated to us that they have signed him, on the understanding that he was free to do so, but that is not the situation," Tony Chambers, the Widnes chairman, said.

According to Sale, Widnes were in breach of the player's contract because of "non-payment" and he was thus a free agent. Because of the delay in Devereux's fitness, there is time to resolve the problem, one of several that Sale, last season's beaten Pilkington Cup finalists, face on the eve of the new Premiership season.

The sight that will greet Saracens, the visitors to Heywood Road for the opening match, will be that of a building site. The main stand has been pulled down, with confusion as to exactly when a new one will replace it. Estimates range from next month

to December and complications have arisen with the discovery of a Victorian culvert that needs to be filled in.

The only seating for Sunday's match and the foreseeable future will be a temporary stand for 1,300 opposite the clubhouse. Sale's capacity of 7,500 when the work is eventually completed will be less than half that until the European Conference fixture against Newport on September 20, which is the optimistic forecast of Howard Thomas, the Sale chief executive.

Sale's unidentified financial backers have furnished the club with little in the way of high-profile recruits this summer. Shane Howard is the third New Zealander to join. Howard is an English passport-holder and has experienced none of the recurring difficulties regarding work permits encountered by John Mitchell, the player-coach, and Simon Mannix.

Mitchell, now that he is set to remain, Sale, hopes to concentrate this season on his coaching role. However, with John Fowler unlikely to be available until after Christmas and Charlie Vyvyan only just back in training after a broken ankle sustained against Leicester in May, Sale's pack, albeit reinforced by the arrival of Chris Murphy, from West Hartlepool, in the second row and the temporary one of Graham Davey, from Bath, as cover at hooker, might yet end up calling on Mitchell sooner rather than later.

Yesterday, Mitchell met Sale officials to discuss a four-year extension to his contract. The club, despite a reported six-figure offer, was alarmed at his possible disappearance to Northampton, but with Ian McCoshan, ruling himself out of the England coaching job, there would appear to be no vacancy at Franklins Gardens.

Rush, who made nine appearances for the All Blacks, is awaiting clearance from New Zealand to join Leicester

## Leicester in chase to sign Rush

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

**L**EICESTER, who have already ploughed south of the equator for three of their signings this summer, are seeking to confirm fourth before the Allied Dunbar Premiership begins on Saturday. They have registered Eric Rush, the New Zealand wing, but must wait to see whether the New Zealand Rugby Football Union (NZRFU) will release him from his contract before being sure of his man.

Rush, 32, is keen to take up a two-year contract at Welford Road in the belief that his days with the All Blacks — he made nine international appearances, most recently against South Africa as a replacement in Christchurch last year — are over. However, like several of his colleagues who agreed comparatively long-term contracts with the

Wales wing, who began training with his new team-mates at Bath yesterday, said that he will decide in the next few weeks whether or not to retire from international rugby. The wing, capped a record 71 times by his country and a British Isles tour member on three occasions, will tell the Welsh Rugby Union of his decision when he returns from a three-week honeymoon. Evans, 33, says he is unsure whether he still has the appetite left to continue playing for Wales.

Indeed, Rush has been a popular selection for the Barbarians and at one time flirted with Ireland, for whom he has qualifications. Clubs other than Leicester are waiting for similar contractual clearances from southern-hemisphere unions, among them Saracens, who hope to announce a new signing shortly. If Rush does go to Leicester, it will not be until North Harbour have completed their national provincial championship fixtures in New Zealand in mid-October.

He played against England for the Barbarians at Twickenham in 1990, a match in which he was joined in the back row by Neil Back, the Leicester

flanker. Indeed, Rush has been a popular selection for the Barbarians and at one time flirted with Ireland, for whom he has qualifications.

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Indeed, Rush has been a popular

## FOOTBALL

# Wilkinson drills youngsters with academic values

**H**e looked slightly lugubrious, as he always does, chomping on a few neatly-cut sandwiches, teasing them around his mouth as he answered questions, but football's philosopher king was radiating as much happiness as he is able to do for the first time since he was sacked as Leeds United manager last season. Howard Wilkinson was, yesterday, back in charge of a team.

Wilkinson, who has been the technical director of the Football Association since January, was in full flow at the National Sports Centre in Lilleshall after his first session in charge of the England Under-18 team. The building in which his press conference was held was the National Centre for Rehabilitation, a sign said outside, and Wilkinson did his best to live up to the billing.

He has got the best of both worlds now, after all, a trackside job and a chance to indulge the administrative side of his personality that always hovered just below the surface at Leeds. Many have been surprised at how intelligent and far-reaching his proposals for the future of the game have been; his glories eccentricities, the metaphors and similes that he digs up, make what could be dull topics appear enthralling.

Of course he was pleased to be back in a trackside, he said, after he had put young players such as Matthew Upson, of Arsenal, and Michael Owen, of Liverpool, through their paces. He compared it to the pleasure of playing a round of golf after the endless rounds of planning meetings and reports that he has become embroiled in since he took over as technical director.

Yet the administrator, the ideas man, who has made it a mission to improve the structure of the national game, especially at youth level, quickly came to the fore and, with him, the full gamut of his thoughts, spilling out like a stream of consciousness in a Virginia Woolf novel.

"I have not had time for



Football  
Correspondent

withdrawal symptoms from coaching," Wilkinson said. "I had to produce a report and do that as quickly as possible. At the same time, I had to find my way around a very, very different organisation to the ones I had been used to, but I had already made the decision at the start that I would be in charge of one of the teams."

"You always teach better for the benefit of experience and, if you are away from the experience of coaching for a long time, it either becomes buried in gold or shrouded in

**'Their creation will bring into being a new breed of soccer professionals'**

black. I knew I was not going to be dealing with players as much when I took the job, so it is no use me bleating about it now. Anyway, it was really the generals who shaped history. It was the soldiers who cleaned up, mopped up and shot up but it was the generals who shaped history thereafter."

From there, Wilkinson went back to the subject that seems to be closest to his heart and one that he talked about extensively when he first outlined his proposals in May — the establishment of soccer academies attached to individual clubs to oversee the development of players from the ages of eight to 21.

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Wilkinson said that their creation would bring into being a new breed of professionals, coaches who would require much more comprehensive qualifications than those possessed now. He said he hoped that would eradicate the present situation, in which 50 per cent of youth staff at FA Premier League clubs had changed over the past year.

"For some of these people they just use the youth system as a step into football," Wilkinson said. "For some, it is a job to give a mate. Some are just desperate for the money and for others it is a whim. The victims are the players and in this case the victims are about as innocent as you can get: the kids."

"These academies are going to become more and more important. Sir John Hall [the Newcastle United owner] told me last week that in ten years' time he would like to see 11 Geordies running out at St James' Park in the Premier League. Circumstances have come together to produce the situation we have got with so many overseas players, but the foreigners will go somewhere else one day and then we will need the academies."

Wilkinson said that because he had been able to stand back

from the game for a brief period, he had been able to glimpse the "bigger, better, clearer picture," that he had been able to learn from the youth systems pursued Holland and Norway, even from the street academies in Soweto, where children play without the inhibition of organised, competitive matches, and the English system suffered in comparison.

"It is Chinese philosophy that says it's best," Wilkinson said. "Education is like rowing up a stream: if you stand still, you go backwards."

Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, goes into hospital today for an ankle operation. Robson has suffered wear and tear over the years and a surgeon has advised that he has an operation. He still aims to take charge for the home match with Stoke City on Saturday.

Niall Quinn, the Sunderland striker, will replace O'Neill. "I spoke to Keith on the phone and it's bad news, a real blow," Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, said yesterday. "At least Niall is now back with us and from what I've seen of him in matches and in training, he looks as fit as ever."

Quinn, 30, who scored for Sunderland in their 3-1 victory against Manchester City, his former club, on Friday, has not played an international

since October 1989.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY AUGUST 19 1997

SPORT 39

## RACING: NEWMARKET TRAINER HOLDS STRONG HAND FOR YORK

# Bosra Sham to advance Cecil's title prospects

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

WITH the millennium drawing ever nearer, it is worth pondering who has been the outstanding British trainer of the twentieth century — especially as the answer could be determined, to an uncanny degree, by the results during the three-day Ebor meeting, which gets underway at York today.

If the best guide to greatness is the number of times the annual trainers' championship has been won by different handlers, then the shortlist for trainer of the century is easy to assemble. Michael Stoute and Dick Hern have both won the coveted title on four occasions; Fred Darling and Cecil Boyd-Rochfort bagged five apiece, while Frank Butters and Noel Murless each accumulated eight titles.

However, the leading pair are Alec Taylor, the "wizard of Manton" who was champion trainer 11 times between 1907 and 1925, and Henry Cecil, with ten titles to his name. When Bosra Sham won the Champion Stakes last year,

Cecil looked sure to equal Taylor's record, only for Saeed bin Suroor and the Godolphin team to fight back and snatch the glory in the dying days of the season.

As Cecil travels north to the Knave's Mire today, he knows his results at one of his favourite meetings could enable him to poach a decisive advantage in this year's trainers' championship — and help him to match Taylor's tally.

Although he is at present £10,000 behind John Gosden in the prize-money list, which determines the title, Cecil saddles the likely favourites in four races, including three of the richest and most prestigious.

Cecil's success at York, one of the fairest and best-run courses in the land, is underlined by the record of his runners on the Knave's Mire since 1983. From 286 runners, 202 have reached the frame, including 83 winners. Punters' blindingly backing Cecil horses would be in profit.

Although only four runners

go to post for the Juddmonte International Stakes, the day's £250,000-added feature race, all are group one winners and, by definition, top-class performers.

Singipal, winner of the Japan and Dubai Cups before landing the Coronation Cup in June, could finish only fourth behind Swain in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes. The ground was unsatisfactorily soft that day and today's faster surface will suit, but Michael Stoute's runner had a hard race at Ascot, which may have left its mark.

Benny The Dip, winner of the Dante Stakes over course and distance before landing the Derby, has benefited from a nice break since finishing second to Plisudski in a false-run and controversial Eclipse Stakes, where the riding tactics of Kieren Fallon on Bosra Sham cost him the ride on the Wafic Said-owned filly.

Desert King, the Irish 2,000 Guineas and Irish Derby winner, is clearly an outstanding

performer on home soil but has left his best form behind on the two occasions he has raced on these shores. Nonetheless, the Aiden O'Brien-trained runner looks a big danger over his best trip, although the Irish Champion Stakes is his main target.

Cecil was in a bullish mood about Bosra Sham yesterday, despite encountering another setback with the filly's fragile fetlock last week. "She's fine and would not be running unless she was 100 per cent. She looks very well and there will be no excuse," he said.

With Benny The Dip likely to ensure a reasonable pace, and Pat Eddery replacing Fallon on Bosra Sham, she can justify her trainer's boast to be the best horse he has ever trained and promote Cecil to the top of the trainers' championship.

Away from the gaze of the Channel 4 cameras, the lightly raced and progressive Zerpo makes particular appeal in the Melrose Rated Handicap (4.15).



Bosra Sham is a warm favourite for today's Juddmonte International Stakes



## TIMEKEEPER CLOCKS ON

THE TIMES today introduces Timekeeper, an exclusive service based on speed figures which will help readers pinpoint winners. A fast time is conclusive proof of ability, rather than subjective judgment, and it is possible to identify a useful horse from a single performance in a small race long before it becomes established as a star. The Timekeeper rating will appear for the next major meetings each day, with a variable top figure reflecting a horse's achievement against the clock. The figures, compiled by James Wilson, take account of going, wind and weight carried against a set of standard times for each course. The rating will reflect the best performance from the horses last six starts and the top-rated in each race will be highlighted.

## Chester House can build on firm foundation

### YORK

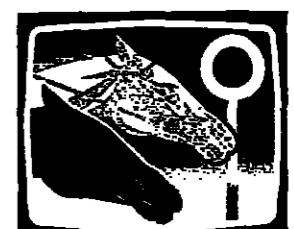
#### CHANNEL 4

2.05: Teapot Row surprised connections when obliging at 14-1 on his debut at Newmarket, but the James Toller-trained newcomer recorded a fast time and deserves respect. Paul Cole's representative, Jazz Club, beat two previous winners on his debut at Haydock, despite a tardy start, and should be seen to even better effect over today's extra-firm track.

Plenty of improvement can be expected from Mr Cahill after his victory in a slowly-run Yarmouth maiden when he looked far from fully wound up. However,

#### RICHARD EVANS

Nap: STOWAWAY (3.5 York)  
Next best: Zerpo (4.5 York)



#### TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

Goodwood Cup and should be thereabouts.

However, I cannot desert the David Morley-trained Celeric, who ran arguably the best race of his career behind Shantou over an inadequate trip last time in the Princess of Wales's Stakes at Newmarket. Back over his best trip and running at his favourite course, the Ascot Gold Cup winner can defy a 9lb group one penalty to win this race for the second successive year.

3.10: see above.

2.05: Silver Patriarch is the form choice, judged on his second to Benny The Dip in the Derby. However, the John Dunlop-trained colt失望 in the Irish Derby at the Curragh, where he was found to be slightly lame and today will be a suitable tune-up for his main target, the St Leger.

The lightly-raced Stowaway, owned by the Godolphin team, was suited by the step up in trip and quickened impressively to land the Gordon Stakes at Goodwood. With further improvement likely, Frankie Dettori's mount will be hard to beat.

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3.45: Silver Patriarch appeals on Goodwood run in a competitive nursery

2.35: Corradini disappointed in the Goodwood Cup, in which the undulating track did not suit the Cecil-trained runner. This talented stayer will be much more at home on this galloping track where he beat Celeric last year and is now 1lb better off. Although Double Eclipse has fragile legs, he bounced back to his best when finishing third in the

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## CRICKET

# Lee bowls closer to Australia debut at the Oval

By RICHARD HOBSON

CANTERBURY (final day of three): The Australians beat Kent by six wickets

SHANE LEE wore the expression of a contented soul as he sat on the players' balcony and strummed his guitar. Out in the middle, Ricky Ponting and Michael Bevan steered the Australians to a third first-class victory of the tour against county opposition.

They put on 90 for the unbroken fifth wicket, but Kent squandered opportunities to split the stand and set up a closer finish. Such a criticism cannot be levelled at Lee. The past week has seen him plucked from Enfield, a Lancashire League side, into the Ashes party and, with eight wickets in the match, he is closer to a Test debut than ever.

Mark Taylor, the captain, said before leaving with his family for a sightseeing trip to London that Shaun Young, also uncapped, was more likely to fill the vacancy for a third seamer in the sixth and final

**Australia may select new one-day captain**

AUSTRALIA'S Test cricket captain should no longer be guaranteed the job of leading the limited-overs side, Trevor Hohns, the chairman of selectors, said yesterday.

Hohns, who heads a five-man selection panel, is seeking a change of policy to give him authority to pick a specialist captain, if necessary, for one-day matches.

"We would like the freedom to pick a team for each specific type of game and that includes the captain," Hohns said in Brisbane. "Limited-overs cricket and Test cricket are now many miles apart

and some players play one-day cricket better than others."

Mark Taylor has led Australia in the Test series and the limited-overs internationals on the Ashes tour in England. Australia have retained the Ashes in the six-Test series against England, but lost the limited-overs series.

Taylor struggled for form as an opener earlier in the tour, prompting calls for his sacking, but he has hinted he will stay on as captain if he receives the selectors' backing.

good rhythm, swung the ball and worked the batsmen out."

Fleming could consider himself unfortunate to be caught off a genuine leg glance, while Marsh pulled to mid-wicket and Strang edged to slip as Lee took a grip. Ponting, missed Thompson's first ball and Michael Slater, more embarrassingly, dropped a straightforward chance from Ealham at cover. Either would have given Lee the first five-wicket haul of his career.

Ealham progressed to 85 from 118 balls, quickly in position to cut and drive. Ponting, however, atoned for the earlier mistake by holding a wonderful, right-handed catch at mid-wicket when Ealham pulled Kasprowicz off the front foot seemingly for his fourteenth four.

The Australians required 230 from a minimum of 60 overs. They set off pace as, for the first time on the tour, Slater resembled the dashing opening batsman who became such a perfect foil for Taylor in England in 1993. Before striking 47 yesterday, his best score had been 26 and his aggregate of 159 runs is just seven more than in the Test innings at Lord's four years ago that earmarked him as a greatly talented player.

Few would have begrimed him the three runs to raise his half-century. Instead, he went back to a delivery by Fleming that nipped in to uproot his off stump. Mark Waugh chipped to mid-wicket and Ponting briefly struggled against the leg spin of Strang. Fleeter footwork helped him to overcome the challenge though and, like Bevan, he began to work the ball into the gaps.

Dean Headley, who missed this contest, will have a test on his injured heel when England convene at The Oval today, but is confident of proving his fitness.



Hitting out against Iggleston at Canterbury yesterday, Slater shows the dashing form that made him an Australia opening batsman

## Spirited Pakistanis fall at final hurdle

By BARNEY SPENDER

CHELMSFORD (final day of four): ECB XI beat Pakistan A by five wickets

THE colleague in the press box who confidently predicted that this match would be over by lunchtime duly lost his 50 yesterday for the simple reason that the Pakistanis, mindful that this was their last game on tour, opted for a scrap rather supine surrender.

When the ECB XI began their quest for the 107 runs they needed to win, they lost both openers, Maddy and Lewis, in the first six overs to some highly-charged fast bowling from Abdul Razzaq and Azhar Mahmood. Then, after a steady partnership

of 63 between Grayson and Hemp, they lost three more to the wiles and turn of Shoaib Malik, the 15-year-old off spinner, and Ali Hussain Rizvi, the leg spinner.

Another 50 runs would have made the chase interesting, but the English batsmen were always just ahead of the game and Dougie Brown, of Warwickshire, completed a memorable match by cutting Mahmood for the boundary that brought the winning runs at 2.25pm.

Brown, who made 43 in the first innings, had started the day by taking the outstanding Pakistani A wicket when Rizvi provided Nixon with his eighth dismissal of the match in the fourth over. With career-best figures of eight for

five or six of them to play Test cricket very soon."

Three — — Muhammed Wasim, Saleem Elahi and the precociously-gifted Hassan Raza — have already had a taste of the Test arena, but there can be little doubt that Mahmood, the all-rounder who kept them in this game on Sunday, and Shoaib Akhtar, the fast bowler, will soon be there, too.

Shoaib Akhtar has been the find of the tour," Aghar said. "At times, he has bowled as fast as Waqar Younis, he has learned well, but now he needs to play in the Test team, where he will learn and improve much more quickly. He needs to make that step up."

Ali Naqvi, the opening bats-

man, who made a fine century against MCC, Javed Qadeer, the wicketkeeper, and Razzaq have also advanced their causes considerably over the past seven weeks.

The one big disappointment, however, as it was for the South Africans when they toured last year, was the lack of a representative match against England A. When England came to Pakistan, they played three Tests and three one-dayers. It would have been good to have done the same here because, although it was a great experience, playing the counties does not motivate the players to produce something special."

Unfortunately, England A look destined to play all their cricket abroad.

## Centurians resist Yorkshire attack

By JOHN THICKNESSE

PORTRUSH (final day of four): Hampshire (8pts) drew with Yorkshire (11)

YORKSHIRE were left to regret wasting the steamy, swing-bowling conditions of Sunday when the United Services pitch reverted to type in favour of the batsmen yesterday, enabling Hampshire to deprive them of the win that would have lifted them to fourth place in the table.

Hampshire's saviours were Giles White whose 145 was his maiden championship hundred, and John Stephenson, the captain, whose 114 was his own first in that sphere since 1995 — and amazingly 65 higher than his previous best in the competition this year.

Brought together by the loss of Keach at 202 for four, when Hampshire were still 18 away from clearing off their deficit, their stand of 173 in 155 minutes deserved to make the match safe and would normally have done so.

Yesterday that was not quite the case, however. There were still 53 overs in the day when White succumbed to the second new ball and, in the next 12, three more wickets fell. Stephenson's among them.

Thanks to Gavin Hamilton's first five-wicket haul for Yorkshire, which trumpled Hampshire to 410 for eight, the visitors had an

## James enhances chances but Glamorgan slip up

By PAT GIBSON

WORCESTER (final day of four): Worcestershire (24pts) beat Glamorgan (6) by 54 runs

STEVE JAMES did his prospects of playing for England in the West Indies this winter no harm at all yesterday by scoring his fifth county championship century of the summer in front of David Graveney, the chairman of selectors. Not even that, however, was enough to enhance a cause much closer to Welsh hearts.

Glamorgan are desperate to win the championship for the first time since 1969 and only the second time in their history, but a victory target of 374, seven more than they have ever made to win a match, proved beyond them. In the end, they were all out for 319 with 43 overs remaining and instead of Glamorgan going back to the top of the table, Worcestershire, more improbably, moved into fourth place.

Whether they can sustain a realistic challenge remains to be seen, but one had to admire the way Tom Moody, their Australian captain, got the best out of his seemingly modest resources in this absorbing match, which was set up nicely when Worcestershire began the final day 341 runs ahead with three wickets in hand.

Philip Weston had added only

eight to his overnight 106 when the deserving Croft had him caught off a top-edged sweep, but a bad miss by Shaw cost Glamorgan 14 runs, which could have been crucial, before the innings folded.

Glamorgan had a minimum of 81 overs to get their runs and the target stiff as it was on a fourth day pitch, did not seem beyond them when James and Morris, the most prolific opening pair in the country, were putting on 115 in 30 overs.

Graveney, who had a wasted day on the first day, when they did not get to the crease, must have been impressed, particularly with James. He is not the most elegant

of batsmen and has the reputation of being a pragmatic accumulator of runs, but now he unveiled a pleasing array of strokes as he went past fifty for the fourteenth time in 20 innings this season.

It was then that Glamorgan suffered their first big setback. James drilled Hick to extra cover and called for a sharp single only to discover that Morris could not get to the other end in time to beat Solanki's pick up and throw.

Worse was to follow. Dale had already been brilliantly taken at slip by Lampitt off Moody's off-spin when Haynes struck the blows that settled the match. First, he had Powell caught at slip; then, he surprised Maynard, who had batted sublimely for 161 not out in the first innings, with a delivery that lifted to have him caught behind first ball.

Croft, who must appear before an England and Wales Cricket Board disciplinary panel with his Essex adversary, Mark Hodd, tonight, helped James put on 78 for the fifth wicket, but all hope was gone for Glamorgan when James, having raced to his hundred with three fours off four balls from Moody, called Leatherdale to square, and

deserving Croft had him caught off a top-edged sweep, but a bad miss by Shaw cost Glamorgan 14 runs, which could have been crucial, before the innings folded.

All that remained was the definition of Waqar, who thrashed two sixes and six fours in an unbeaten 44 before he ran out of partners.

The joy was that in no sense was it a contrived finish. This was Downman's third century of the season. Pollard, who has recovered from injury, will have a job to regain his place now. Downman faced, in all, 168 balls and struck 18 fours.

Alas for him, other than a half-century from Astle, there was insufficient support. Johnson and McCallum went cheaply and, although Noon and Azaad brought the target down to 17 off two overs, the necessary runs had to be made against Caddick and Mushtaq Ahmed.

At the start of the last hour, Nottinghamshire needed 95, which was asking a lot. They did, though, have eight wickets intact. The captain soon went, looking to make room to cut Mushtaq and Downman, who had made a decent

## Notts tied down in spite of Dowman

By IVO TENNANT

TRENT BRIDGE (final day of four): Nottinghamshire (8pts) drew with Somerset (11)

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE's bold attempt to score 320 off a minimum of 76 overs narrowly founders yesterday. Given the ideal start by Matthew Dowman, who made 124, they kept going creditably until their last pair, Wayne Nixon and Andy Orton, were at the crease. Needing 15 runs to win, they fell back on defence in the final over.

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score for the fourth match in succession, lost his leg stump in Rose's next over.

In the following over, the fifth of the last 16, Tolley injudiciously opted to reverse sweep and was held at point.

After that, there were not enough strokemakers, or even sloggers, for Nottinghamshire to reach their target. On a pitch which still had some life in it for the medium pacers, Bowler had delayed his declaration. Trescothick, unbeaten with 70 overnight, finished with 81 including eight fours, and Turner and Rose thumped the ball around merrily at the end of Somers' innings.

Nottinghamshire are to have a further attempt at luring the Australia leg spinner, Shane Warne, to Trent Bridge. They are prepared to pay him a six-figure sum next season and to give him the chance of making more money from commercial opportunities. For example, Peter Wright, the managing director of Gunn and Moore, the renowned bat manufacturers, sits on Nottinghamshire's committee.

They are all too aware, though, that there is increasing pressure on Warne to remain at home and conserve his energies for Australia's forthcoming series. Alan Border, for one, feels a period of rest is necessary.

## Strolling players plot to propel Italy on to the world stage

Ivo Tennant on the learning curve that led one of cricket's lesser lights to the playing fields of Stratford-upon-Avon

Durham XI containing a sprinkling of players with first-team experience.

Results, though, are hardly the point of the tour, for this 16-man party of labourers, a janitor, an accountant and somebody who is something in television is in England to learn. "We know we are a bad team and do not mind saying so," Dr Simone Gambione, chairman of Federazione Italiana Cricket, admitted.

Italy are in the middle of an intensive tour of England — 11 fixtures in 15 days — and, until last Sunday, it had not been a successful one. They had lost four matches and gained a draw at Stratford-upon-Avon with their last pair at the crease, before achieving a three-wicket victory over a

team containing a sprinkling of players with first-team experience.

Now we have proper cricketers and the sport has government recognition," Gambione said. A 39-year-old historian who speaks perfect English, he has been the leading figure in the Italian game since the days when he confounded opponents by

opening the bowling off two paces. Their cricket has come on considerably since then. Although Italy did not win a match in the ICC Trophy tournament in the spring, they did bowl out Scotland. Gambione is not entirely jesting when he talks about their participation in the tenth World Cup from now.

At Stratford-upon-Avon, fringed with weeping willows and gawping tourists, Italy could not withstand a Midlands Conference XI, in spite of an unbeaten 135 by Hemantha Jayasena, who batted throughout the innings. Italy are of commensurate standard now to Argentina, East and West Africa, Gibraltar and Israel and will participate in the European championship in Holland next year, but they find organising matches against club sides a more straightforward affair. On the

morning of one scheduled match, they discovered that their opponents, Israel, had vanished during the night for security reasons. In 1990, Italy were expelled from the European Cricket Cup after

Gambione objected to the rules for qualification. There are only 400 registered cricketers in Italy and yet the ICC has been supportive of the Federazione. "It gives us £20,000 a year and pays our costs for taking part in the Trophy," Gambione said.

With water short in the summer months, all the pitches in Italy are artificial. Martin Crowe, the former New Zealand batsman, has provided help on a part-time basis and Italy now have a coach for five months of the year. Doug Ferguson is a one-time league professional from Durham, who recommended Geoff Cook and Peter Willey, among others, to Northamptonshire. "If we win two matches on this tour, we will be doing well," he said.

Satellite television has introduced the young and old alike to cricket, although how suited the Latin temperament is to the game is another matter. Matches in our Italian championship can become rough," Gambione said. "Nations like ours who are bad at cricket have no present — we only have a future. No country outside those who play Test matches has undertaken so many tours in recent years. We are not good cricketers. We want to learn."



The blue-eyed boys of Italian cricket brought a splash of colour to the English game

Kovacs

## CRICKET

# Spin doctors conjure collapse of Sussex

By SIMON WILDE

**HOVE** (final day of four): Gloucestershire (23pts) beat Sussex (7) by 166 runs

The capture of Mark Robinson's wicket is not normally cause for wild celebrations, but it was yesterday. No sooner had Richard Davis bowled this most leporine of county batsmen than he was jumped on by his Gloucestershire team-mates as they rejoiced in a resounding defeat of Sussex that puts them back on top of the Britannic Assurance county championship table.

They will stay there for a few days at least, but sit out the next round of matches before returning to action —

**TABLE**

|                      | P  | W | L | D  | St | Bl | Pts |
|----------------------|----|---|---|----|----|----|-----|
| GLOUCESTERSHIRE      | 13 | 8 | 4 | 1  | 29 | 44 | 181 |
| Notts (1)            | 10 | 6 | 3 | 1  | 29 | 41 | 171 |
| Gloucester (10)      | 12 | 5 | 5 | 2  | 29 | 41 | 169 |
| Worcester (7)        | 12 | 4 | 1 | 7  | 33 | 36 | 158 |
| Surrey (5)           | 12 | 3 | 6 | 3  | 33 | 36 | 153 |
| Yorkshire (8)        | 12 | 2 | 7 | 3  | 33 | 36 | 148 |
| Essex (5)            | 12 | 4 | 4 | 4  | 29 | 36 | 147 |
| Lancashire (15)      | 13 | 4 | 4 | 5  | 27 | 36 | 141 |
| Nottinghamshire (6)  | 12 | 3 | 5 | 4  | 30 | 36 | 131 |
| Leics (1)            | 13 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 24 | 42 | 128 |
| Somerset (11)        | 12 | 2 | 2 | 8  | 23 | 42 | 125 |
| Notts (17)           | 12 | 2 | 7 | 3  | 13 | 43 | 125 |
| Nottinghamshire (14) | 12 | 2 | 5 | 5  | 21 | 36 | 124 |
| Durham (16)          | 12 | 2 | 5 | 5  | 14 | 37 | 108 |
| Sussex (7)           | 13 | 1 | 7 | 5  | 21 | 44 | 95  |
| Nottinghamshire (2)  | 12 | 2 | 2 | 8  | 20 | 44 | 95  |

(□ Worcester's second wicket eight points as a side-betting last in a match where scores finished level)

(Last year's position in brackets)

with Shaun Young back in tow — against Nottinghamshire at Bristol tomorrow week. They then complete their programme with matches against Kent, possibly their most dangerous rivals, Warwickshire and Lancashire.

Two aspects of play yesterday must have surprised them. One was the manner in which Sussex finally capitulated, because they had previously fought hard, obliging Gloucestershire to bat on for 40 minutes in the morning and set them an unlikely target of 328.

From the point that Toby Peirce and Neil Taylor were separated, having shared a second-wicket stand worth 107, until Robinson was out, Sussex lost nine wickets in a mere 96 minutes for the addition of 52 runs. They were all but a minute before the start of the final hour.

## TENNIS

## Rusedski reaches new peak

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

**GREG RUSEDISKI** has achieved a career-high position of No 23 in the latest world rankings after reaching the semi-finals of the Pilot Pen international tournament in New Haven, Connecticut at the weekend.

He has risen two places and is within sight of overtaking Tim Henman as the highest-ranked British player. Henman, a quarter-finalist in New Haven, has also climbed one spot to No 20, but his points total of 1,616 is only 65 better than that of Rusedski. If Rusedski does well at the ATP Tour event in Boston this week, he could overtake Henman, although the crunch may well come at the US Open, the last grand slam event of the season, which starts at Flushing Meadow, in New York, next Monday.

Henman reached the last 16 in 1996 before losing in four sets to Stefan Edberg, while Rusedski went out in the first round. That will mean added pressure for Henman, who gained 130 points for his effort 12 months ago. An early defeat would mean a drop in the world lists, since he would lose the value of most of those points, while Rusedski will gain merely by advancing to the second round.

Yevgeny Kafelnikov, of Russia, has risen to third in the rankings after beating Patrick Rafter, of Australia, 7-6, 6-4 in the final in New Haven.

Jonas Bjorkman, of Sweden, won the RCA championship in Indianapolis by beating Carlos Moya, of Spain, 6-3, 7-6 in the final.

Monica Seles captured her third successive Canadian Open title when she defeated Anke Huber, of Germany, 6-2, 6-4 in the final in Toronto.



The batting promise of Peirce, who claimed half-centuries in each innings, was not enough to halt Gloucestershire

## Pressure back on Ramprakash

**M**ark Ramprakash is such a talented batsman and so immersed in the game that has been his life that one wishes him all that he wishes for himself. He makes big scores with unfaltering ease for Middlesex and the captaincy that the club conferred on him two months ago suggests that he is finally at peace with himself. Why, then, does one fear for him?

In the first place, the facts do him few favours and, although only pedants rely exclusively on facts, they provide a good place from which to start. In 19 Tests between 1991 and 1995, Ramprakash has failed to make a hundred and he has passed fifty only twice in 33 innings, on both occasions against Australia.

Four summers ago, he was summoned across Vauxhall Bridge at the last minute from Lord's, where Middlesex were playing Northamptonshire, to play at the Oval after Graham Thorpe broke a thumb knocking up in the nets. He made 64 in the second innings at England won. In Peth 18 months later, when he joined the party as a fate replacement, he made 72 in an overwhelming defeat.

On the first occasion, Australia had won the series; at Perth, England were playing for a share of it after the Ashes had gone. Perhaps that re-

veals something about the man's character. With no time to fret about his performance, or how the result could affect the outcome of the series, he could bat freely, and did.

Yet Test cricket is not about making runs when the pressure is off, which leads directly to the second point. Ramprakash has never indicated that his temperament is attuned to the demands, more mental than anything, of mastering the best bowlers in the world.

Michael Atherton cannot be wrong when he says "Ramps has never done it when it has mattered". His Test average, around 16, is inferior to Paul Reiffel's and only a shade better than Shane Warne's.

One can assume, therefore, that Atherton did not lobby for his inclusion at the Oval, where England conclude their disappointing summer. This selection bears the stamp of Mike Gatting, Ramprakash's former county captain, who endured seven torrid years of self-doubt before he proved himself worthy of a Test place and, having proved it, went on two years later to lead England to victory in Australia.

There is now fevered talk in some excitable quarters — well, it has been inordinately hot — of Ramprakash taking over the reins from Atherton, which does the man no service at all. Gatting, for all those

early failures, consistently passed fifty in Tests and rarely looked out of place. The young Ramprakash was so introspective that he made Middlesex resemble a man of redress impulse.

An English Test crowd last saw him at Lord's two years ago, against West Indies, when he bagged a pair and took so long to leave the crease that the umpires were about to send for the bailiffs. He still got the nod that winter in South Africa before another duck, in "Atherton's match" at Johannesburg, saw him return to the ranks.

At the start of that tour, Raymon Illingworth, the team manager, spoke of how the selectors considered him the best man to bat first wicket down and how they were "desperate" for him to succeed. How much additional pressure on this sensitive man is hard to gauge, but it didn't prove the making of him. He froze in the Tests, was overlooked for the rest of the tour out of pity and returned to England as a wounded bird.

That he remains sensitive to the doubts of others is evident. On Sunday, when television cameras went to Lord's in the hope of recording a few words with him, Ramprakash chose to keep his own counsel. He is entitled to do so, of course, but the pressure will not evaporate simply because he does not want to talk about it.

No matter how many runs he has made this season, no matter how beautifully he has made them, England have still taken a risk in recalling him. Everybody is rooting for "Ramps" because he has a rare gift and it is always galling to see a gifted person fail to do himself justice.

Good intentions, however, are never enough and there is nothing anybody else can do for him. When he returns to the team on Thursday, he is playing with fire. And fire burns.

**MICHAEL HENDERSON**



Line and Length

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## SWIMMING: POPOV, THE OLYMPIC CHAMPION, RETURNS FOR RUSSIA AFTER LIFE-THREATENING INJURY

### Smith shies from the eyes of media at Seville

FROM CRAIG LORD  
IN SEVILLE

Smith: no press conference

which expired this month. Smith refused to give a press conference and Irish officials said she would not give interviews until after her races. Then, if she faced too many drug-related questions, she would abandon the championships, one official said.

Popov will stay, come what may. His speed may be better than ever, thanks to work on his technique and flexibility exercises to stretch the tissues around the 10in scar on his stomach. He has regained the 7kg in

coming chair and a drink of barley water. Instead, swimmers tread water while sipping from a bottle. Biting into a banana in mid-race is a balancing act second to none — and is also the least of a swimmer's worries if the searing sun fails to penetrate the sun-block and grease, then there is the bath-like water temperature of 30C to contend with. Then there is the mental struggle and, if you are Rita Kovacs, a fractured sternum to overcome.

The Hungarian swam a race of 89 kilometres in the Parana River in Argentina four months ago. It was her fourth race there, and her fastest, at just over 9hr 46min. The efforts caused the fracture. Unable to swim, Kovacs took up jogging to maintain

weight he lost in 13 days in hospital after his life-saving operation, and said: "It was my body, not my soul, that was damaged. So the doctors can do their job and ... there you go."

Popov returned to the water in November and has slowly built back to his pre-Atlanta workload. His stamina and lack of race fitness were his only concerns, he said, but he believed he could "produce a couple of very good times here". For Popov, a very good time means a fight for the minor places by the rest of the field.

The Russian has been working with Gennadi Touretskiy, his coach, on the "kayak principle", which means there is no "dead zone" of lost energy in the freestyle's stroke. Perpetual motion is possible, Popov said, because "the water is your friend ... you don't have to fight with water, just share the same spirit as the water and it will help you move".

Smith may not have to move as fast as she did in Atlanta to win the 400 metres medley today, the first of six races she has entered under her married name, with opposition not as keen at European level.

She may find a stiffer test at the post-race press conference. Smith has instructed her solicitor to write to several media organisations this year threatening legal action if speculation about her does not cease. Yet the questions — which did not start in Atlanta with the Americans, but began in 1994, when she made her first big improvement — refuse to go away.

The reason is clear: Smith is an anomaly in her sport, the pattern of her progress late in a long swimming career is unprecedented. How can a 26-year-old woman who has never swum an international champion-

ship race over 400 metres free-style (or, for that matter, any other freestyle distance) and whose best time of 4min 26sec set her outside the best 150 swimmers in the world in 1995, clock 4min 07.25sec to become Olympic champion in 1996?

The answers she has given — hard training, a weights programme, use of training methods employed in athletics and specialised diets — have not silenced the critics.

For Britain, there have been no medals in the diving, open water, synchro or water-polo here, but hopes are high. Best bets rest on Graeme Smith, of Stockport, who was third behind two Australians in the 1,500 metres freestyle in Atlanta last year. Victory in Seville would make him the first, and only other, British winner of the title since Ian Black in 1958.

Britain's other Olympic medal-winner, Paul Palmer, is aiming to improve on the silver medals he has won in the 400 metres freestyle at the last two European championships, while James Hickman, Smith's training partner, is a medal hope in both butterfly events, along with Stephen Parry, of Liverpool. Hickman, however, was under medical supervision for a stomach upset last week.

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